

**WRESTLING FORUM 1989 YEARBOOK**

**JON GALLAGHER-EDITOR**

**ED GAREA**

**SEAN GRANDE**

**JEFF SIEGEL**

**MIKE VIOLA**

with special thanks to those who voted and contributed

and an EXTRA special thanks to MARY, KELLY & ERIN  
for putting up with me for the past two months

**WRESTLING FORUM 1989 YEARBOOK**

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Dear Readers;

Welcome to the 1989 version of the Wrestling Forum Yearbook. It's taken a lot of time to compile the results of not only the year end balloting, but also the decade end balloting and other features as well.

We are particularly proud of the way things came together to give you not only an overview of the year 1989, but a look back at the past decade as well.

We tried to incorporate a couple of new items this year and with your help, perhaps these will become a regular feature in future books: The title defenses and the Datebook that appear are the results of hours of research. My thanks to Bob Closson who came up with the idea for title defenses in his own Mat Results yearbook when it was still around, and also thanks to Joel Kolsrud of Camanche, IA, Ed Garea, our own Phantom, and of course Dave Meltzer for their help in compiling the Datebook.

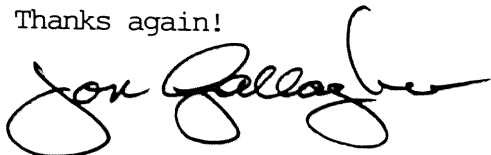
A special thanks to Steve Sims of Chicago for the encouragement to continue this project when it seemed hopeless (almost every day).

My extra special thanks to those of you who participated in the year end and decade end polls. Without you all, either this book would be a lot shorter or it wouldn't be here at all. Special mention here to Teresa DeMarie and Sean Hendrick, whose names you may get sick of reading before you're through. Their ballots were almost as long as this book!

And last, but not least, thanks to those of you who had the faith in me to order this thing. With the reputation we've seemed to acquire through the UAWF, it's a wonder you're around at all.

Have fun reading. We're anxious to hear your comments on what worked and what didn't. Let us know so we can improve next year's version.

Thanks again!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon Gallagher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jon" and last name "Gallagher" clearly legible.

Jon Gallagher  
Editor-Wrestling Forum

Sean Grande  
Jeff Siegel  
Ed Garea  
Mike Viola  
staff members

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Reader's survey questions: I'm Most Sick of & Things I'd Like to See  
are scattered about as fillers throughout the entire yearbook

# THE YEAR'S TOP STORIES

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## JANUARY 1989.....

The first shots in the McMahon-Turner war appeared to be fired when Ted Turner announced plans for a Pay Per View on April 2nd, the same day as Wrestlemania. McMahon had gone to the PPV syndicators and demanded a bigger cut of the profits and they responded by asking the NWA to produce a PPV on the same day, guaranteeing Turner's group clearance on more than 80% of the systems across the country. Syndicators were upset that the WWF had sabotaged the NWA's plans for their January PPV with a free show on the USA network, thus costing them, as well as the NWA, major profits....Terry Taylor turned babyface in the WWF and the Royal Rumble, the WWF PPV for January, set up Savage's turn when Hogan accidentally eliminated him from the rumble...James J. Dillon was the latest NWA'er to jump to Titan...Jerry Lawler was stripped of the AWA title after a big blow up between the AWA and Memphis/World Class...Allegedly, Verne failed to make payoffs to the other wrestlers who worked the card and some of the payoffs, when made were only \$25...Lawler refused to wrestle for Gagne and the AWA stripped him of the title for not making scheduled appearances...George Scott became the new booker for the NWA as Dusty Rhodes departed for Florida...Rick Steamboat was signed to a six month contract in the NWA.

## FEBRUARY 1989.....

Jose Gonzales was acquitted of the murder of Bruiser Brody in San Juan by a 9-3 vote of the jury...they agreed that he acted in self defense after Brody was portrayed as a wild, drug crazed maniac. No American wrestlers testified at the trial...Turner cancelled the 4/2 PPV show after Titan and the syndicators came to an agreement...Lance Russell left Memphis after more than 25 years on the job for a job with the NWA...Mildred Burke died...Titan Sports admitted to the New Jersey that the outcome of its matches were pre-determined...it was an effort to have wrestling deregulated by the state so that taxes could be avoided on cards, mainly PPV event coming from that state...NBC ran another prime time special which drew an 11.6 rating and a 19 share and placed 46th for the week...it saw Savage turn heel on Hogan and Elizabeth take one of the all time great bumps...title changes in the month had Larry Zbyszko winning the AWA strap in a battle Royal and Steamboat pinning Flair for the NWA belt...The Destruction crew debuted this month and Rob Russen quit the AWA to start his own group.

## MARCH 1989.....

Long time Houston promoter Paul Boesch passed away at the age of 73...Ronald Hembrect was acquitted of the murder of Ricky Lawless (Jim Leon) when charges against him were dropped....the NWA came up with a new set of rules for wrestlers that looked like they came from the 1960's ...George Scott ended up getting fired as booker....Magnum TA was also relieved of his announcing duties...Great Muta debuted to the delight of fans everywhere....Kevin Von Erich was fired by Jerry Jarrett for missing many shows...

## APRIL 1989.....

Hulk Hogan won back the WWF title in front of a record number of viewers on Pay Per View...The Olymoians won the AWA tag titles from Diamond and Tanaka and Joe Blanchard was named the new figure head president of the AWA...Nick Bockwinkel was fired as an agent for the WWF...The NWA featured on its Clash of Champions show a 56 minute match between Ric Flair and Ricky Steamboat which Steamboat won 2 falls to one.... the TBS studio tapings were abandoned in favor of Center Stage in Atlanta



which allowed for more people to attend yet kept the cozy, intimate atmosphere...Zeus debuted in the WWF, making interview spots on tour to promote the movie NO Holds Barred....Esquire carried a feature article by columnist Bob Greene on Buddy Rogers.

#### MAY 1989.....

Ric Flair won back the NWA title on the May PPV, Wrestlewar 89, the Music City Showdown...Terry Funk returned on the card as a judge and ended up attacking Flair after the match...the Oak Ridge Boys provided entertainment during the intermission and sang the national anthem...Vince McMahon appeared on the Letterman show and seemed uncomfortable with the wise cracking host David Letterman....ESPN got upset with the AWA and Colonel DeBeers in particular for racial slurs and banned the good Colonel from future broadcasts...it was in response to an angle shot with black wrestler Derrick Dukes...Tom Zenk was fired from the AWA for undisclosed reasons.

#### JUNE 1989.....

THE movie "No Holds Barred" starring Hulk Hogan, Joan Severance, and Tiny Lister was released and ended up grossing \$12 million at the box office...Critics around the country had a contest to see who could give it the worst debut...Dusty Rhodes surfaced in the WWF with a bunch of intro skits with him working at the common man's job...The NWA ran a Clash of Champions from Fort Bragg which featured the Freebirds capturing the NWA tag team championship in a tournament, Lex Luger turning heel and beating the snot out of Ricky Steamboat, and the auspicious debut of the Ding Dongs, possibly the worst idea in the history of wrestling...the AWA made its last appearance in Chicago by doing a live TV show for Chicago's SportsChannel from the Odium in Villa Park...the NWA debuted a new Friday night show, the NWA Power Hour to the glowing reviews of fans across the country.

#### JULY 1989.....

One year to the day after Adrian Adonis, Dave McKigney and Pat Kelly died in a Canadian auto accident, Clagary stars Davey Boy Smith, Chris Benoit, Jason the Terrible, Samu Hara and Ross Hart were injured in another wreck (7/4)...There were a few broken bones, but that was the most serious injury..Jake Roberts was found guilty of assault in Florida after beating up a fan who he started bar hopping with...Larry Nelson, longtime announcer with the AWA vanished, leaving town telling no one where he was headed...Ric Flair returned to action and beat Terry Funk on the Junly PPV Great American Bash...the show was the most successful to date drawing a 1.4% buyrate nationally.

#### AUGUST 1989.....

WTBS accidentally showed a show that was three weeks old during the Saturday TBS slot...Director Tommt Edwards was "re-assigned" after the SNAFU...Jim Herd failed to re sign Ricky Steamboat to a contract after he tried to cut the wrestler's wages...The AWA no showed the UAWF convention in Chicago after failing to notify the state athletic commission or the arena that was to hold the show...they also announced the team concept and managed to triple syndication with the ill fated concept...Bob Saber, figurehead commissioner of the Windy City wrestling promotion and former wrestler passed away in Chicago...Titan presented Summerslam 89 which featured Ultimate Warrior regaining his Intercontinental belt and Zeus doing a job for Hogan during a tag team match...USA network debuted the short lived Bobby Heenan show which made TNT look like an

Emmy winner...Robin Green took off the disguise to reveal "Woman" to Rick Steiner...Toni Adams, wife of wrestler Chris Adams, drew criticism when she allowed herself to be used in a couple of angles where her blouse was ripped and another where she was spanked....Ron Gossett became the "promoter" in Memphis for a week following a match where he beat Eddie Marlin...the result was one of the smallest Monday night crowds ever and the shock waves that followed in coming weeks nearly killed the promotion

#### SEPTEMBER 1989.....

Andre the Giant was arrested without incident in Des Moines, IA for putting a sideheadlock on a local news camera man who was at ringside filming part of the WWF card...this was in the middle of the Andre-Ultimate Warrior ten second matches that were running from coast to coast...The Heenan show was cancelled by USA....Randy Savage beat Jim Duggan for the King's title and was proclaimed Macho King...Inside fans stirred up quite a fuss at TV tapings in Oakland when they brought signs to the Titan show that promoted the NWA...they were evicted from the building and dubbed the "Oakland II"....At the eighth Clash of Champions, Terry Funk was sidelined with a staph infection in his elbow and was not allowed to wrestle Ric Flair...He was replaced by Dick Slater, but he showed up later placing a plastic bag over Flair's head and creating a controversy amongst both inside and casual fans alike...Paul E. Dangerously was fired from the NWA for a variety of reasons depending on who you listen to...Woman turned heel and cost the Steiners a match on the Clash...

#### OCTOBER 1989.....

Steve DiSalvo, who wrestled as Big Daddy in Florida, lost a lawsuit that sought damages from Dusty Rhodes and Florida Championship wrestling for a broken ankle stemming from an incident several years ago...Rhodes testified under oath as to the authenticity of the sport...Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, fed up with Dusty from the NWA and him following them to the WWF, gave Titan their notices...Demolition took the tag team titles from them...Hurricane Hugo was not kind to NWA wrestlers living in the Charlotte area...trees went through the houses of Jimmy Garvin and Ricky Steamboat while Ric Flair and Stan Lane both spent at least a week without electricity...In Europe, the WWF made a second tour in as many years...the Rockers were fired for some undisclosed actions during the tour, but were hired back before the week was out...The Destruction Crew (Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom) won the AWA tag team titles at a Rochester TV taping while Derrick Dukes walked out of the taping after being asked to do a job for Larry Zbyszko without being put over in any other match...The NWA's PPV show was real Halloween Havok when the fire marshall in Philadelphia refused to let them "electrify" the cage which made the gimmick match look like an ordinary cage match much to the chagrin of fans who paid to see an electric cage...Jerry Lawler dropped his unified title to Soul Taker in Memphis in a strange set of circumstances...the book had been taken away from Lawler earlier, but he still had control over the finishes of his own matches...Dutch Mantell, who had taken over as booker, told Soul Taker before the matches that he wasn't needed anymore and that this would be his last night...Prior to the Soul Taker-Lawler match, Lawler told Soul Taker that he was winning the title this night. Soul Taker went from being fired to being "world" champion in less than two hours.

**NOVEMBER 1989....**

Clash IX from Troy NY starts off like a funeral service only to be saved by the last few matches which managed to turn it into one of the best cards of the year...it featured Cornette turning on the Dynamic Dudes after a brilliant set up...a match with the Steiners vs Skyscrapers in which Sid Vicious was injured (but we didn't at the time know how severely)...and the classic "I Quit" match between Flair and Funk...The WWF ran another successful Survivor Series on Pay Per View, but it did nothing other than set up the 12/27 PPV showing of "No Holds Barred"...USA network put together a three hour special preceeding the show that featured better matches and helped to sell a few hundred extra subscriptions to the PPV show...Arn Anderson wrestled in his last WWF match during the Survivor Series, but Tully Blanchard was fired earlier in the week for trying to recruit other wrestlers to follow him to the NWA...Titan blamed the firing on Tully's failure of a drug test...Ironically, Tully didn't make it to the NWA as Jim Herd wouldn't put on to paper the amount quoted Tully in previous negotiations....Jerry Lawler turned heel in Memphis in an attempt to pick up gates there...he gets over big as a heel, but the gates did not improve noticeably.

**DECEMBER 1989....**

Starrcade 89 featured a round robin tournament between the top four singles wrestlers and the top four tag teams in the NWA. The Road Warriors did a job in the tournament for the Steiner brothers but ended up winning the tag team division on points. In the singles division, Sting scored a surprising pinfall on Ric Flair to win the event....The Four Horsemen were reunited and they offered Sting the chance to join them...Starrcade did a 1.3% buyrate....Tommy Young was injured in a TBS match and had to be hospitalized with a neck injury...the prognosis was not good and it is suspected that he will be out of action for up to six months...Zeus was fired following the 12/27 PPV which featured the movie "No Holds Barred" plus a cage match with Hogan & Beefcake vs Savage and Zeus...the match was taped 12/13 in Nashville and Zeus did another clean job for Hogan...Titan started to have problems once again with the syndicators of PPV events...Titan wanted a bigger chunk of the profits while the syndicators wouldn't budge on the previous agreement...on the 12/27 PPV broadcast, the WWF made a public appeal to fans to call their cable companies and demand they carry both the Royal Rumble and Wrestlemania ...the ploy was not successful and the WWF relented on its demands just after the first of the year...Chris Champion tried to get the CWA out of its contract with WSM-TV in Memphis for a live TV shoot every Saturday mornings by letting the word "bullshit" "slip" during an interview segment ...World Class and the CWA began freely exchanging talent and the promotion wanted to do one taping in Dallas is the reason for the "slip"....

**THESE WERE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE SCENES....**

The look on Jim Ross' and Rick Steiner's faces when they saw Robin Green come out of her shell....Muta's handspring elbow....Dusty Rhodes delivering pizza, making tacos, and other wise degrading himself....Lex Luger hitting Ricky Steamboat with a clothesline to turn heel....an independent wrestler in Puerto Rico, wearing a costume exactly like that of Invader #1 and calling himself "Murderer #1"...Jonnie Stewart lip synching a Johnny Mathis song in the bar at 2 am during the UAWF convention in Chicago...Ric Flair's reaction to Ricky Steamboat's arrival in the NWA....Elizabeth's bump on the NBC Prime Time Special...Hulk Hogan asking if they were "on the air" while whimpering over Elizabeth....Ric Flair doing an interview with Muta's green mist in his hair and his blood caked there and on his face.

# MAN OF THE YEAR

## RIC FLAIR

9

**PREVIOUS WINNERS:**  
1988-Ted Turner

The Man of the Year Award is given to the individual who had the biggest impact on wrestling during the past year. Selected from the widest field of possible candidates, anyone from wrestlers to promoters to managers to fans are eligible.

| NOMINEE          | 1ST       | 2ND       | 3RD      | TOTAL     |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>RIC FLAIR</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>55</b> |
| Vince McMahon    | 8         | 9         | 8        | 50        |
| Ted Turner       | 8         | 8         | 2        | 42        |
| Terry Funk       | 6         | 4         | 2        | 28        |
| Hulk Hogan       | 4         | 2         | 6        | 22        |
| Jim Herd         | 9         | 6         | 3        | 18        |
| Ricky Steamboat  | 2         | 0         | 0        | 6         |
| Dave Meltzer     | 1         | 1         | 0        | 5         |
| Zeus             | 0         | 0         | 4        | 4         |
| Ultimate Warrior | 0         | 2         | 0        | 4         |
| Akira Maeda      | 1         | 0         | 1        | 4         |
| Antonio Inoki    | 1         | 0         | 1        | 4         |
| Jim Cornette     | 1         | 0         | 0        | 3         |
| Randy Savage     | 1         | 0         | 0        | 3         |
| Lex Luger        | 0         | 1         | 1        | 3         |
| Verne Gagne      | 1         | 0         | 0        | 3         |
| Jon Gallagher    | 1         | 0         | 0        | 3         |
| Don Owen         | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Jim Ross         | 0         | 0         | 2        | 2         |
| Sting            | 0         | 0         | 2        | 2         |
| "Oakland 2"      | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         |
| Roddy Piper      | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         |

### \*\* VOTER COMMENTS \*\*

Gallagher: 1) Jim Herd...Herd's power in the NWA and the decision he made during the year earn him the top spot. Had he made the right decisions and signed the wrestlers that got away (his own fault), the NWA might be closer to catching the WWF than they are now. 2) McMahon is second due to the success of the WWF. He might have gotten the first place vote had we not come to expect that amount of success as a normality. 3) Zeus...certainly this choice has nothing to do with ability, but he had most of the casual fans talking through most of the year.

MARK BENNETT: 1) Ricky Steamboat...Without Steamboat, where would most of the great matches of 1989 be? My hat goes off to Ricky, doing what he was told, helping out a desperate promotion, and giving us memorable matches. Thanks Ricky!

TERESA DEMARIE: Simply put, Akira Maeda wins this category hands down. Who else had his kind of success this year? He isn't exactly a role model for the Marquis of Queensberry rules, but he knows what he's doing and his box office speaks for itself. Vince McMahon (2) actually got a wrestling movie to be successful, despite a bad plotline and some of the worst acting this side of "Plan 9 from Outerspace." Since this can go for negative reasons, I have to pick Jim Herd here (3rd). This guy's had plenty of chances to do something constructive, but so far he's managed to be the ultimate goof, which proves just because you're in business does not mean you know how to run one. Other than Maeda, this is a very weak category for positives.

JACK ORTIZANO: Jim Cornette (1) performed well in a variety of ways -- manager, commentator, interviewer, Power Hour host, comedian and wrestler. He was gracious when forced to leave the NWA and he was always a credit to the sport.

DON G. SMITH: (1) Hulk Hogan-because of "No Holds Barred." (2) Ric FLair-for poor booking and great wrestling. (3) Terry Funk-for the shot in the arm he gave the NWA

J. D. McKAY JR: Terry Funk for being the consummate professional and leading by example for the many young stars in the NWA.

ERIC HOYME: Terry Funk gave 1989 his very best. He worked on two knees that would have had most people laid up in a hospital. He did what ever he needed to do in order to put himself over, but more importantly, what ever it took to put others over.

STEVE YOHE: (1) Dave Meltzer-everyone in the game reads him each week and he's more of an influence than we realize sometimes. (2) Vince McMahon-the boss of professional wrestling. Can do anything he wants, even promote and make big money with non wrestlers like Zeus.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) Ted Turner-has given the NWA the potential to top the WWF. (2) Vince McMahon-like him or hate him, Vince is still the man in wrestling promotion. (3) Ric Flair-for all his efforts in trying to push the NWA. In retrospect, not all his decisions have been good, but he is constantly

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) Ric Flair - with the fact that he was controlling the booking as well as having some of the most incredible matches this country has seen is enough for me. The fact that he gave up the belt to help create interest and activity within the promotion also helped. (2) Terry Funk - this man was the only real breath of fresh air in an otherwise somewhat stale year. He helped stir a drink which needed it badly. We can only hope his work and dedication to the sport will inspire some of the younger wrestlers. (3) Zeus - Anyone who can go from a z-bit actor to the number one heel in the number one promotion in one year deserves consideration (he rates as man of the year also because the word "wrestler" does not appear in the category title).

# WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

## RIC FLAIR

10

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Ric Flair  
 1987: Ric Flair  
 1986: Ric Flair

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS & SCORING:** This was the only category where we asked voters to compile a top ten list. We asked that ranking be based on workrate (50%), interviews and charisma (25%), and drawing power (25%). We counted only ballots that listed ten choices to make the point tabulation fair for everyone. Ten points were awarded for a first place vote, nine for a second and so on through tenth place which was awarded one point. Five bonus points were awarded for each ballot a wrestler was named on. The columns below indicate the number of net points achieved through ranking votes, number of 1st place votes (no bonus points for these; just for statistical purposes) number of ballots named on, and total points.

| <u>WRESTLER</u>  | <u>net pts</u> | <u>1sts</u> | <u># ballots</u> | <u>TOTAL PTS</u> |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| RIC FLAIR        | 358            | 27          | 37               | 539              |
| TERRY FUNK       | 266            | 3           | 34               | 436              |
| LEX LUGER        | 194            | 0           | 35               | 369              |
| RICKY STEAMBOAT  | 181            | 0           | 27               | 316              |
| STING            | 153            | 0           | 27               | 288              |
| RANDY SAVAGE     | 149            | 2           | 27               | 284              |
| HULK HOGAN       | 131            | 3           | 22               | 241              |
| CURT HENNIG      | 103            | 1           | 22               | 213              |
| KEIJI MUTA       | 91             | 0           | 18               | 181              |
| TED DIBIASE      | 72             | 0           | 21               | 177              |
| Bret Hart        | 48             | 0           | 13               | 113              |
| Rick Rude        | 39             | 0           | 10               | 89               |
| Sean Michaels    | 28             | 0           | 11               | 83               |
| Ultimate Warrior | 35             | 0           | 9                | 80               |
| Akira Maeda      | 39             | 2           | 5                | 59               |
| Brian Pillman    | 21             | 0           | 7                | 56               |
| Scott Steiner    | 20             | 0           | 6                | 50               |
| Barry Windham    | 25             | 0           | 5                | 50               |
| Jushin Riger     | 20             | 0           | 5                | 45               |
| Rick Steiner     | 17             | 0           | 5                | 42               |
| bossman          | 14             | 0           | 5                | 39               |
| Owen Hart        | 24             | 1           | 3                | 39               |
| Roddy Piper      | 18             | 0           | 4                | 38               |
| Bobby Eaton      | 16             | 0           | 3                | 31               |
| Arn Anderson     | 13             | 0           | 4                | 21               |
| Rick Martel      | 6              | 0           | 2                | 16               |
| Dusty Rhodes     | 5              | 0           | 2                | 15               |
| Tully Blanchard  | 5              | 0           | 2                | 15               |
| Dynamite Kid     | 8              | 0           | 1                | 13               |
| Demolition       | 8              | 0           | 1                | 13               |
| Jumbo Tsruta     | 6              | 0           | 1                | 11               |
| Adrian Street    | 5              | 0           | 1                | 10               |
| Sid Vicious      | 5              | 0           | 1                | 10               |
| Genchiro Tenryu  | 5              | 0           | 1                | 10               |
| Eddie Gilbert    | 4              | 0           | 1                | 9                |
| Larry Zbyszko    | 4              | 0           | 1                | 9                |
| Marty Jannetty   | 2              | 0           | 1                | 7                |
| Jerry Lawler     | 2              | 0           | 1                | 7                |
| Scott Levy       | 2              | 0           | 1                | 7                |
| Antonio Inoki    | 2              | 0           | 1                | 7                |
| Dalibar Singh    | 2              | 0           | 1                | 7                |
| Tito Santana     | 1              | 0           | 1                | 6                |
| Eric Embry       | 1              | 0           | 1                | 6                |
| Chris Benoit     | 1              | 0           | 1                | 6                |
| Stan Hansen      | 1              | 0           | 1                | 6                |
| Norman           | 1              | 0           | 1                | 6                |
| Keichi Yamada    | 1              | 0           | 1                | 6                |

# ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

## WAYNE BLOOM

11

### PRVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Scott Steiner  
1987: Shane Douglas  
1986: Bam Bam Bigelow

The qualifications for a rookie according to our definition is anyone who started with his first major promotion from October 1988-December 1989. If Wrestling Forum readers continue their track record of picking future stars, then we'll be seeing a lot more of Wayne Bloom in the next few years.

| WRESTLER                    | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| WAYNE BLOOM                 | 14  | 3   | 4   | 52    |
| Teddy Long                  | 4   | 3   | 2   | 22    |
| Dustin Rhodes               | 3   | 5   | 2   | 21    |
| Mike Enos                   | 2   | 4   | 7   | 21    |
| Larry Cameron               | 2   | 1   | 0   | 8     |
| Jonnie Stewart              | 0   | 2   | 2   | 6     |
| Zeus                        | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Soul Taker                  | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Salmon Hashimikov           | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Jushin Riger                | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Bobby Bradley               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Lee Scott                   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Chonovili                   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Tommy Jammer                | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Victor Yangiev              | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| NON ROOKIES RECEIVING VOTES |     |     |     |       |
| Muta                        | 2   | 1   | 1   | 9     |
| Derrick Dukes               | 1   | 2   | 0   | 7     |
| Brian Pillman               | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Sid Vicious                 | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Johnny Ace                  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Glaxian (Danny Davis)       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |

### VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: I took Enos as my top choice because of his work rate. He's overshadowed by Bloom in the tag team, but he's clearly advanced further in the past year than Bloom. Second is Stewart, who, after years of working for smaller independents, got such heat from AWA fans that Verne and Greg decided to bury him. Third comes this year's winner, Bloom, who has all the tools to make a great all round wrestler.

DOYLE NORRIS: 1-Bloom, 2-Enos, 3-Stewart. Too bad they will all have to leave the AWA to get anywhere.

STEVE YOHE: (1) Salmon Hashimikov - win a world title in your fourth match and I'll vote for you.

ERIC HOYME: Wayne Bloom gets my vote. My only question is, how much longer does he and Enos have to stay lost in the AWA before someone gets smart?

NAME WITHHELD #2: Dustin Rhodes may have had an advantage over the other candidates. With his father being a wrestler that meant he got to spend his childhood watching and learning from GOOD wrestlers instead of having to weatch people like his dad!

TIM D'ALLAIRD (on his #3 pick Teddy Long): Long is the best of the managers since Cornette. I don't mean to suggest that they are on the same level, but Long has unlimited potential.

JOE MANNION: Larry Cameron (1) was finally given a shot by a full time promotion and he proved th be a good heel and decent worker. Wayne Bloom and Mike Enos' work was impressive, especially when you consider they worked for the AWA which turned into a TV-taping promotion.

I'M MOST SICK OF...Ric Flair's booking (Virgil are you around?)...Bravo's push...the Steinres...Woman...Doom.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...Hennig win a belt...one more singles title in the WWF...Bob Backlund returns to the WWF or NWA...Flair goes to the WWF and we will finally see Flair vs Hogan...DiBiase and Gilbert (if he comes to the WWF) form a tag team...Flair steps down as booker...Flair steps down as heavyweight champ...Piper's Pit back...more wrestling for WWF and still keep its comedy and it will still lead them #1 into the 90's...Vince and Jesse go at it...Savage win a strap...the Steiners to fade out (I don't care for them)...Woman to get off my 46 inch projection TV screen.

-WALT MARSHALL-  
-Morrisville, PA-

I'M MOST SICK OF...any WWF match  
THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...return to regional promotions.

-ANDY DRAGOS-  
-Van Nuys, CA-

# BEST PROMOTION NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

## PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: World Wrestling Federation  
1987: World Wrestling Federation  
1986: Watts' Universal Wrestling Federation

This year's balloting for Best Promotion drew battle lines between the hardcore NWA and WWF fans. In a photo finish, Ted Turner's NWA and their superior work rate won out over the glitz and success of Vince McMahon's WWF.

| PROMOTION         | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | total |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| TURNER'S NWA      | 16  | 19  | 3   | 89    |
| McMahon's WWF     | 20  | 8   | 7   | 83    |
| Maeda's UWF       | 6   | 3   | 4   | 28    |
| Pacific Northwest | 4   | 4   | 5   | 25    |
| All Japan         | 1   | 3   | 0   | 9     |
| New Japan         | 1   | 2   | 2   | 9     |
| Calgary Stampede  | 0   | 0   | 3   | 3     |
| United States     |     |     |     |       |
| Wrestling Assoc   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Memphis           | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| NWF               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| TWWF              | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

## VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: I chose the Pacific Northwest first. They made the most out of a very limited talent base. Second was the NWA, barely. They screwed up enou times this year to keep them out of first place and they almost screwed up enough to drop out of the top three. The WWF is third because of their success, certainly not because of the product.

KAREN SHEHORN: (1) WWF-it hurts me to put them first, but figures don't lie. If pure wrestling was the criteria, then the NWA would always be #1.

TERESA DEMARIE: If success is the measure of a promotion, and it ought to be, the UWF, by drawing the biggest gates in wrestling history, is the clear choice here. While the WWF has not exactly been brilliant in booking this year, it still is the most successful promotion in the US and puts out

the most professional wrestling shows on television, a major reason for their success. Portland was very entertaining this year, benefitting from interesting angles, a souped up TV show and Roddy Piper. The fact that it is a small independent promotion emphasizes their success.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1)-WWF-they are very good at what they do. They give the fans what they want, run consistent storylines, and present characters the masses can grasp. (2)-NWA-For the action, plain and simple. Sometimes it doesn't make much sense, but still, the work rate is amazing. (3) UWF-they just keep doing all the right things to make them the biggest news item in Japan wrestling today.

STEVE YOHE: (1) All Japan - they had a good year with great wrestling and clean finishes, (2) NWA - Can't get it together at the house show, but had great TV and PPV.

NAME WITHHELD #1: Given your definition, I must vote for the WWF based on profitability, angles and fan interest. They're still the only promotion over to the general public. I give the NWA second on the basis of workrate and the exceptional matches and major shows they held this year, although i think the workrate at the regular house shows has slipped from a few years ago.

DON G. SMITH: (1) NWA - for wrestling, (2) WWF - for gates, but it isn't wrestling.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) WWF - Even with a pitiful workrate and boring feuds, the Fed is the most successful business-wise. (2) NWA - Slowly but surely, the NWA is getting onto the right track and seems to be on the verge of breaking through to the casual fans.

ERIC HOYME: Anyone who honestly believes anyone but the WWF is number one is just kidding themselves.

# WORST PROMOTION AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

13

## PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: American Wrestling Association

1987: World Class

1986: American Wrestling Association

For the third time in four years, Verne Gagne and the AWA earn the dubious distinction of having the worst promotion in wrestling. They have never finished lower than second.

| PROMOTION         | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| AWA               | 30  | 6   | 4   | 106   |
| World Class       | 9   | 15  | 7   | 55    |
| WWF               | 5   | 2   | 1   | 20    |
| Memphis           | 1   | 2   | 5   | 12    |
| ICW               | 1   | 1   | 2   | 7     |
| GLOW              | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| Florida           | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| NWA               | 0   | 2   | 0   | 4     |
| Chicago Challenge | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Southern          | 0   | 1   | 2   | 4     |
| Continental       | 0   | 0   | 3   | 3     |
| Tomko             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Central States    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| WWA               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Atlantic Coast    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Puerto Rico       | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Windy City        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Stampede          | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

## VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: The front office of the AWA has five people in it. Not a one of them knows what the other is doing. After they screwed up th convention show in Chicago, you have to wonder just how many other shows they screwed up that we didn't hear about. They get my first place vote here. World Class is second for allowing Eric Embry to be pushed beyond the point of even Dusty's ego. Memphis, one of the best promotions in the past has slipped to the point of resorting to using movie monsters and poor copies of other promotions' successful (and not so successful) gimmicks.

MARK BENNETT: AWA - America's Worst Association.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) World Class/USWA - The "eric Embry Show" was the most pitiful version of a wrestling promotion I've ever seen (2) AWA - while not as poor as last year, the improvements are too little, too late.

ERIC HOYME: A co worker found out that I'm a wrestling fan, and she wanted to impress me by watching a wrestling show so she could talk to me about it. She chose the AWA on ESPN. That was embarrassing. She said she'd rather watch Roller Derby, Championship Fishing with Orlando Wilson, or Bowling for Dollars. It took four months to convince her to watch the WWF or NWA.

MIKE MILLER: I've attended six WWF shows this year and out of all the shows, none were good. A total waste of money.

TERESA DEMARIE: Hard choice for #1 here. USWA has been godawful all year. Horrible television, bad matches and poor choice of front office personnel. The NWA almost merited #1 due to the fact that they've screwed up most of time all year. Haven't managed to get a single one of their wrestlers on a talk show, have people playing face who should be playing heel and vice-versa, have a namby-pamby goof steering the helm who has more personality facets than Sybil, and a group of successive bookers who can't agree on anything. The only thing that saves them from clinching numero uno, is somehow, they've put on some great shows on TV and PPV this year. The AWA is practically nonexistent, so I guess I could question their placement, but Verne should never fail to get his just deserts every time I can give it to him.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) AWA - bad, dull, boring. ....and these are the good points (2) USWA offensive, stupid and stale, not to mention desperate. (3) CWA (Memphis) - more a case of a lack of deep talent than anything else.

I'M MOST SICK OF...boring matches with talentless wrestlers...NOT seeing enough angles.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...more Japanese wrestlers (Jsuhi Riger, Super Strong Machine, Tenryu, Choshu, etc) to the NWA or WWF...more talented wrestlers with gimmicks to the main federations (E.G. Wildside, Destruction Crew, Master of Pain, etc).

-GARY LUM-  
-San Jose, CA-

I'M MOST SICK OF...Vince McMahon thinking we're all nine year old kids.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...a tournament between all wrestlers of all federations promoted by a complete outsider. Think of all the matches: Flair vs Savage, Hogan vs Luger, Sting vs Ultimate, Sheepwhackers vs Road Warriors, Kerry vs Kevin...

-DAVE STARR-  
-Flint, MI-

I'M MOST SICK OF...put downs of the WWF...put downs of the NWA...wars started in newsletters over whose bulletin is better.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...more details of behind the scene stuff in newsletters...the WWF acknowledge the existence of other federations...more WWF and other live shows in this area (the NWA never comes to the Hagerstown MD area yet the WWF draws 3000 or more to each card in this area - we now have a college recreation center that seats 5000 - hint hint).

-PAGE PYNE-  
-Williamsport, MD-



# TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

## RICK & SCOTT STEINER

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Midnight Express (Lane & Eaton)  
 1987: Midnight Express (Lane & Eaton)  
 1986: Midnight Exoress (Condrey & Eaton)

The Steiner Brothers ended the three year reign of the Midnight Express (in one form or another). The total number of nominees was one of the lowest in recent memory.

| TEAM                                        | 1st       | 2nd       | 3rd      | total     |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>RICK &amp; SCOTT STEINER</b>             | <b>14</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>70</b> |
| Sean Michaels/Marty Janetty (Rockers)       | 8         | 13        | 6        | 56        |
| Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson (Brainbusters) | 11        | 6         | 6        | 51        |
| Bobby Eaton/Stan Lane (Midnight Express)    | 6         | 5         | 9        | 37        |
| Animal & Hawk (Road Warriors)               | 3         | 6         | 6        | 27        |
| Axe & Smash (Demolition)                    | 3         | 1         | 2        | 13        |
| Sid Vicious/Dan Spivey (Skyscrapers)        | 1         | 1         | 2        | 7         |
| Mike Enos/Wayne Bloom (Destruction Crew)    | 1         | 1         | 1        | 6         |
| Warlord/Barbarian (Powers of Pain)          | 1         | 0         | 0        | 3         |
| Bret Hart/Jim Neidhart (Hart Foundation)    | 0         | 1         | 1        | 3         |
| Footloose                                   | 1         | 0         | 0        | 3         |
| Can-Am Express (Japan)                      | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Jim Garvin/Michael Hayes (Freebirds)        | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         |

### VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: The success of the Midnight Express in years past was due to the variety of moves they used and the work rate they displayed. This year, the Steiner Brothers with their suplexes, Frankensteiner, and vicious bumps made tag team wrestling interesting again. They get my top vote. The Rockers dazzled the WWF this year with a workrate not seen there in tag team action since the Jumping Bomb Angels. Third goes to the Midnight Express who worked hard despite the lack of push in the NWA. Their turn heel should only improve them even more.

J.D.MCKAY JR: Brainbusters, but the Rockers are a close second.

MIKE MILLER (on his second place choice): The Rockers will be the Midnight Express of the nineties.

JACK ORTIZANO: The Steiners put it all together. Superb work rate, impressive moves, enthusiasm, angles, interviews and great comedy.

NAME WITHHELD #1: (1) Blanchard & Anderson - they had to fight for everything they got, and where did it get them in the end? Still the best in work rate. (2) Steiners - on work rate, how well they are over...they do their gimmick well.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) Midnight Express - even with an up and down year, Bobby & Stan are still the "hardest Working team in the biz." (2) Road Warriors - The Roadies had a good year with a decent feud with the SST. (3) Steiners - If they had teamed up in the beginning of the year, they would probably be

number one. I look forward to the inevitable clash with Cornette and the Express.

MARK BENNETT (on his third choice): the Rockers got third because of their matches with the Brainbusters.

KAREN SHEHORN: (1) Midnight Express - they were slow for a while, but with their recent turn back to full fledged heels they were back in top form. (2) Steiners - they have really gone a long way in a short time.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) Brainbusters - not only did they take the WWF titles, but they also shook up Titan on the inside. Ring work was outstanding as always. (2) Rockers - For consistently exciting matches. They have not had a big push with any really hot feuds, but still worked above and beyond the call of duty. (3) Steiners - big moves and some good storylines have helped put these two over. 1990 could be a huge year for this duo.

TERESA DEMARIE: While they are no more (at least for a while), I have always liked Tully and Arn. Can work a good match in the WWF, no mean feat. Had some great bouts with the Rockers this year. Not strong in the charisma or size department, two prerequisites for success in the WWF, but their work is so good they were able to go beyond that. The Rockers (2) were move for move the most exciting tag team in wrestling today. Very harmonious in all their moves and quite acrobatic. More often than not, the only good workers on most WWF cards. Always put in an effort, something in Vinceland that is very rare. The Steiner Brothers (3) have an awesome quality comparable to the Road Warriors in the ring. Can be frighteningly brutal appearing on opponents in the ring, Rick in particular. Scott does mighty impressive stuff in the ring. Can have a good match with almost anyone. Could be over big if used right. Two wrestlers most likely to be mistaken for pitbulls.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I'll take the Rockers and Midnight Express over the Steiners just because I don't really like Rick's "retarded" character. It's like a George Steele who can wrestle (that's sure something I'd never say to Rick's face).

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Brad Armstrong  
1987: Curt Hennig  
1986: Bret Hart

Curt Hennig captures his second "most underrated" award since our balloting began. His up coming push in the WWF coupled with his recent winning of the Wrestling Forum tournament may bring to an end his stigma of being overlooked.

| WRESTLER           | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | total |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| CURT HENNIG        | 5   | 8½  | 2   | 34    |
| Scott Steiner      | 6   | 4   | 2   | 28    |
| Bret Hart          | 5   | 1½  | 4   | 22    |
| Terry Taylor       | 4   | 2   | 2   | 18    |
| Owen Hart          | 3   | 3   | 0   | 15    |
| Ted DiBiase        | 3   | 1   | 2   | 13    |
| Paul Diamond       | 2   | 2   | 2   | 12    |
| Sean Michaels      | 3   | 0   | 3   | 12    |
| Brad Armstrong     | 1   | 1   | 3   | 8     |
| Eddie Gilbert      | 0   | 3   | 1   | 7     |
| Bobby Eaton        | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| Rick Rude          | 1   | 0   | 2   | 5     |
| Larry Zbyszko      | 1   | 0   | 2   | 5     |
| Bossman            | 0   | 2   | 0   | 4     |
| Lex Luger          | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Leon White         | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Tito Santana       | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Woman              | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Dennis Condrey     | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Ricky Steamboat    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Shane Douglas      | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Marty Janetty      | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Jason the Terrible | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Tim Horner         | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Pat Tanaka         | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Jim Neidhart       | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Rockers            | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Mark Rocco         | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Barry Windham      | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Randy Savage       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Brian Pillman      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Brad Rheingans     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Mike Rotundo       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Ultimate Warrior   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Bobby Bradley      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Jushin Riger       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Bob Backlund       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Dan Spivey         | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Tommy Rich         | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Great Muta         | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Brainbuster        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Ron Simmons        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Matt Borne         | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Larry Cameron      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Jeff Jarrett       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Bad News Brown     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Cactus Jack Manson | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Brady Boone        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Honky Tonk Man     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Demolition         | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER'S COMMENTS:

GALLAGHER: It seems that everyone has their own list of three wrestlers that they consider underrated. I'm no exception this year. I took Leon White as my top choice. He's won three world championships this year and most wrestling fans have never heard of him or remember the guy from the AWA who was terribly green. Second was

Bossman who, with his gimmick and employer, was overlooked by the masses this year. Third went to Eddie Gilbert. He's such a great booker that people forget he's a great worker as well.

STEVE YOHE: (1) Scott Steiner - maybe he's not underrated, but I've got to put his name on the list somewhere. He could use even a bigger push too. Has the feel of a great babyface champ who is tougher than heck. (2) Bob Backlund - he wrestled in Japan and looked great. Should be a big draw for someone.

KAREN SHEHORN: (1) Curt Hennig - in any other promotion he would be considered a great technical wrestler but a great percentage of WWF fans don't understand his abilities.

RON DOBRATZ: How about teams? Samoans and Guererro's?

MIKE MILLER: (1) Sean Michaels - he's so good, Janetty doesn't even deserve to tag with him.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) Scott Steiner... has the potential to be the #1 man in the sport someday. (2) Curt Hennig...finally getting a push in the WWF as the year comes to an end. (3) Paul Diamond ...deserves to get a chance with a major promotion.

ERIC HOYME: Ted DiBiase has turned into nothing more than a jobber and has lost every bit of respect he ever had from the casual fans and some of the insiders too.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) The Rockers - very solid workers who can match up with just about anyone. It's too bad they can't tour Japan - I bet they would open a few eyes. (2) Tommy Rich - This poor guy deserves a break. He is really working and trying his best and he really isn't as bad as the fans make it out to be. (3) Demolition - whenever good big men are discussed, it seems they always miss the list.

TERESA DEMARIE: Snide poultry jokes aside, Terry Taylor is far more deserving of better than having to lay an egg on every major performance. He's far more talented than ever given a chance to show...could be a middle to top of the card guy as a heel with the right push. Imitates Flair in the ring to a scary degree.

# MOST OVERRATED ULTIMATE WARRIOR

## PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Dusty Rhodes  
1987: Hulk Hogan  
1986: Hulk Hogan

The controversy rages on as to who these wrestlers are overrated by. This year's winner, as in years past, was considered overrated by the casual fan.

| WRESTLER                | 1ST       | 2ND      | 3RD      | TOTAL     |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>55</b> |
| Hulk Hogan              | 12        | 5        | 5        | 51        |
| Zeus                    | 4         | 5        | 2        | 24        |
| Sid Vicious             | 3         | 4        | 2        | 19        |
| Dusty Rhodes            | 2         | 3        | 5        | 17        |
| Dino Bravo              | 1         | 3        | 6        | 15        |
| Jim Duggan              | 2         | 4        | 1        | 15        |
| Andre                   | 1         | 2        | 1        | 8         |
| Eric Embry              | 0         | 2        | 2        | 6         |
| Jerry Lawler            | 1         | 1        | 1        | 6         |
| Ric Flair               | 2         | 0        | 0        | 6         |
| Randy Savage            | 1         | 0        | 2        | 5         |
| Brutus Beefcake         | 1         | 0        | 1        | 4         |
| Barry Windham           | 1         | 0        | 1        | 4         |
| Honky Tonk Man          | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Owen Hart               | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Road Warriors           | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Akira Maeda             | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Jake Roberts            | 0         | 1        | 2        | 3         |
| Salmon Hashimikov       | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Tommy Rich              | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Curt Hennig             | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Lex Luger               | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Sting                   | 0         | 0        | 2        | 2         |
| Jim Neidhart            | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Michael Hayes           | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Bret Hart               | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Riki Choshu             | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| Larry Zbyszko           | 0         | 1        | 1        | 1         |
| Samoan Swat Team        | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Steve Williams          | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Bad News Brown          | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Akeem                   | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |

## VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: I can't believe that so many people out at work think the Ultimate Dingbat is the greatest wrestler since Strangler Lewis. The guy can't even do an interview without blowing up! Sid Vicious comes in second. I find a lot of inside fans who think he's decent, but I've yet to see him in a good match. Just ask the Dynamic Dudes if he's overrated or not. And how can I let a year go by without casting a vote for Hulk Hogan in this category? He takes third.

J. D. MCKAY JR: Overrated by who? Me? You sure cleared up this muddy situation. Overrated by indies fans: Owen Hart. Overrated by casual fans: Hulk Hogan.

ERIC HOYME: Sid Vicious is my first choice. He's overrated by insiders and casuals alike, and he's pretty terrible. Give me Warrior second just due to the push-lack of ability ratio. Zeus gets third...he's overrated by casual fans and underrated by insiders.

DON G. SMITH: (1) Ultimate Warrior - All charisma, no substance! (2) Hulk Hogan same as Warrior, only a little less so. (3) Jim Duggan - embarrassing, but the kiddies love him. NOTE: I don't yet consider Zeus a wrestler. He's only a WWF prop. But then, so are most of the people in this promotion.

NAME WITHHELD #1: (1) Ultimate Warrior, (2) Jim Duggan, (3) Dusty Rhodes - Why does the WWF always seem to have a lock on this category?

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) Randy Savage - He just doesn't work anymore, and now, after being buried and stuck with his stupid "Macho King" gimmick it looks like he is just another of the cartoon characters. (2) Bret Hart - He's been voted "most underrated" for so long, I have to consider him overrated. Actually he never had any matches of note this year, and after seeing him live several times during the year, he never lived up to his billing.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) Hogan - the Hulkster still can't work a good match. You'd think after all this time he would learn some wrestling maneuvers. (2) Sid Vicious - the "Hogan of the 90's"...nuff said. (3) Zeus - who will Hogan's next big contender be...John Candy?!?!

TERESA DEMARIE: Now, where are you likely to find the most overrated guys in the world? Why, in the WWF. There is absolutely no reason Rhodes should have the heat put on him as he does now. While OK as a middle card guy in a Federation where work rate is not important, Dusty simply doesn't have the charisma or look to be over big time. His visage borders on revolting, something far more effective as a heel than a face. His jive talk rap is just not that impressive and his charisma is the most worked of all the WWFers. Ultimate Warrior (2) probably has more fans who think he's something even more special than Hogan. A horrible wrestler, awful interview who gets by purely on appearance. He's used very carefully as the WWF fully realizes his lack of talent. Even Hogan, who ranks #3 for his pure laziness and lack of booking creativity, can work decent if he has to and can do a good interview (as long as you don't hear him do more than one for each angle).

# MATCH OF THE YEAR

## RIC FLAIR VS TERRY FUNK

### 11/15/89 - TROY, NY

17

#### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Ric Flair vs Sting, Greensboro, NC, March 27, 1988  
 1987: Randy Savage vs Rick Steamboat, Pontiac, MI, March 29, 1987  
 1986: Ric Flair vs Barry Windham, Miami, FL, February 14, 1986

1989 will long be remembered for the year of great matches it produced. Any match that took place from 11/15/88 through 12/31/89 was technically eligible for the award. We have attempted to list the date and site of each match nominated.

| DATE  | SITE            | MATCH                                                            | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | total |
|-------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 11/15 | TROY, NY        | RIC FLAIR VS TERRY FUNK (I quit)                                 | 11  | 9   | 8   | 59    |
| 4/2   | New Orleans     | Ric Flair vs Rick Steamboat<br>(2 of 3 falls)                    | 11  | 4   | 6   | 47    |
| 5/7   | Nashville       | Ric Flair vs Rick Steamboat<br>(Flair regains title)             | 7   | 9   | 5   | 44    |
| 2/20  | Chicago         | Ric Flair vs Rick Steamboat<br>(Steamboat wins title)            | 9   | 6   | 2   | 41    |
| 7/23  | Baltimore       | Ric Flair vs Terry Funk<br>(Great American Bash PPV)             | 2   | 2   | 1   | 11    |
| 8/28  | East Rutherford | Rick Rude vs Ultimate Warrior<br>(SummerSlam)                    | 1   | 2   | 2   | 9     |
| 4/25  | Des Moines, IA  | Hulk Hogan vs Bossman<br>(taped for SNME)                        | 1   | 0   | 4   | 7     |
| 4/2   | Atlantic City   | Hulk Hogan vs Randy Savage<br>(Wrestlemania-Hogan regains title) | 2   | 0   | 0   | 6     |
| ???   | ????            | Rockers vs Brainbusters<br>(shown on SNME)                       | 0   | 3   | 0   | 6     |
| 1/23  | New York City   | Rockers vs Brainbusters                                          | 0   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| 7/23  | Baltimore       | Lex Luger vs Rick Steamboat                                      | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| 9/21  | Osaka Japan     | Jushin Riger vs Noaki Sano                                       | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| 11/15 | Troy, NY        | Steiners vs Skyscrapers                                          | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| ???   | Los Angeles     | Rick Martel vs Tito Santana                                      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| ???   | New York City   | Hogan vs Bossman (cage)                                          | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| ???   | ????            | Randy Savage vs Brutus Beefcake (SNME)                           | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| 6/11  | Japan           | Jumbo Tsuruta vs Genchiro Tenryu                                 | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| 11/15 | Troy, NY        | Brian Pillman vs Lex Luger                                       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| 12/26 | Atlanta         | Flair vs Luger (Starrcade 88)                                    | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| ???   | ???             | Hennig vs Hart (Prime Time)                                      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| ???   | ???             | Brainbusters vs Demolition                                       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
|       | Fort Bragg      | Fantastics vs Gilbert/Simmons                                    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| 4/2   | Atlantic City   | Rockers vs Twin Towers                                           | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| 6/5   | Tokyo           | Footloose vs Can-AM Express                                      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| 7/23  | Baltimore       | Sting vs Muta                                                    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| 7/23  | Baltimore       | War Games                                                        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| ???   | ????            | Warriors vs Samoan Swat Team                                     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

#### VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: Flair vs Steamboat from Chicago was the best match I've seen since I've been doing a wrestling bulletin. The false finishes and phenomenal work rate had me out of my chair and sweating it out. The match from Nashville was almost as good, better if you include the angle afterwards, which I didn't for voting purposes. Third on my list is the Flair-Luger match up from Starrcade 88. Luger finally came into his own that night and Flair was at the top of his game as well.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: Flair vs Funk, Clash IX - an awesome conclusion to Funk's great year.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) Flair vs Funk, Troy Clash - Too tight to be believed! A very brutally realistic match with both men giving it all. (2) Flair vs Funk, Baltimore Bash - another brutal match which made me believe these two really hated each other.

ERIC HOYME: If I could see one match per year as good as the Flair Steamboat match from Wrestle-War 89, I'd never complain about the WWF coming to town. By the time this match took place, these two had the time to refine their work with each other through house shows. A standing ovation from my easy chair. Second was the I Quit match. I sat with my elbows on my knees, chin in hands, amazed - stunned into silence - at the drama as it unfolded. Even knowing the outcome ahead of time didn't stop me from enjoying this onw, something that usually keeps me from enjoying a match.

# ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR

## JIM ROSS

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Jim Ross  
1987: Jim Ross  
1986: Jesse Ventura

Jim Ross takes the announcer of the year for the third year running. Only Jesse Ventura has been able to spoil Ross' perfect four in a row. Ventura won the award when we combined the announcer and color commentator awards.

| ANNOUNCER          | 1st       | 2nd      | 3rd      | total      |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| <b>JIM ROSS</b>    | <b>35</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>113</b> |
| Tony Shivone       | 5         | 16       | 8        | 55         |
| Vince McMahon      | 6         | 5        | 6        | 34         |
| Lance Russell      | 0         | 9        | 6        | 24         |
| Christopher Cruise | 0         | 2        | 3        | 7          |
| Gorilla Monsoon    | 1         | 2        | 0        | 7          |
| Gordon Solie       | 0         | 1        | 4        | 6          |
| Don Koss           | 0         | 1        | 2        | 4          |
| Jesse Ventura      | 0         | 0        | 3        | 3          |
| Lee Marshall       | 0         | 0        | 3        | 3          |
| Marc Lowrance      | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3          |
| Bobby Heenan       | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2          |
| Bob Caudil         | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1          |

### VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: Ross of course, is first, though this year, it's more by default than excellence. There is no better play by play man in the business, but for some reason this year, Jim tried to be too much of a comedian and his work suffered. Tony Shivone improved enough over the past twelve months to make it a respectable race in my book. The surprise entry is Chris Cruise who has been doing wrestling less than five months. As he relaxes with his new job, look for him to become more polished and challenge Ross for this award next year.

TERESA DEMARIE: I like Shivone (1) a lot better in the WWF. He does excellent work - except for a very occasional shrill quality on major shows; never overwhelms a match and has a pleasing voice. Can even work with Monsoon, no small feat. Jim Ross (2) can be excellent, but he gets so enthusiastic at times, he can be irritating. When he contains himself, he's the best in the business, but needs

more discipline in that regard. Lee Marshall (3) has all the tools, he's just working for the wrong federation. Could be big in the WWF.

KAREN SHEHORN: (1) Ross - He should be retired in this category. He can make a bad match exciting. (2) Lance Russell. (3) Chris Cruise - He's new but he learns fast. He will probably be on top most of the nineties.

MIKE MILLER (one his third choice): Shivone - finally a class announcer in the WWF - born and bred in the NWA.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I gotta go with McMahon for #1. He knows what needs to be said and when to say it. The only thing I hate about him is when he uses his carnival barker voice when introing a major PPV. Don't include him on my list, but Mean Gene should get a special award for the "excellent" job he did of calling the action when the SummerSlam sign fell.

STEVE YOHE (on his second choice): Vince McMahon - I was watching a tape from 1980 the other day and Vince used to be able to call a good match. Now he does just what he's supposed to do: move the product. He knows what the boss wants.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) Ross - he just keeps getting better and better, and the way he throws in historical facts is great. (2) McMahon - he always gets his point across to the fans. (3) Gordon Solie - he fills his role nicely and works well with the rest of the NWA crew.

# JOBBER OF THE YEAR

## BARRY HOROWITZ

19

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Barry Horowitz  
1987: Brady Boone  
1986: Randy & Bill Mulkey

Barry Horowitz broke the curse of the jobber of the year and stayed around long enough to win the award for the second year in a row. He garnered only seven points less than his winning total of last year, enough for a landslide victory.

| WRESTLER         | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| BARRY HOROWITZ   | 23  | 10  | 1   | 90    |
| Tim Horner       | 6   | 7   | 3   | 35    |
| Lee Scott        | 4   | 3   | 6   | 24    |
| Steve Lombardi   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 8     |
| Mike Sharpe      | 1   | 2   | 0   | 7     |
| George South     | 1   | 2   | 0   | 7     |
| Sam Houston      | 1   | 1   | 2   | 7     |
| Terry Taylor     | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Tokyo Bullet     | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Tommy Angel      | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Ted DiBiase      | 2   | 0   | 0   | 6     |
| Tommy Rich       | 0   | 2   | 1   | 5     |
| Curtis Thompson  | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Randy Hogan      | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Bob Bradley      | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Eddie Gilbert    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Trent Knight     | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Agent Steele     | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Cuban Assassin   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Owen Hart        | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Randy Savage     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Paul Roma        | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Jose Estrada     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Sammy Delgado    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Tony Leone       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Tom Stone        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Terry Funk       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Steve Casey      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Bill Woods       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Snake Brown      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Scott Hall       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Bob Emory        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Jose Luis Rivera | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Jack Victory     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Lanny Poffo      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Bill Irwin       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Mike Justice     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Ric Flair        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: How 'bout that! I finally picked the winners in order for my own ballot! Horowitz is so respected within the business, that Vince knows putting him with someone on arena shows will get that other wrestler over. Horner is tremendous in his role and Vince should be glad he was able to pick him up. Lee Scott is just a rookie, but already taking some of the best bumps on TV.

TERESA DEMARIE: Only two guys come to mind when I think jobber. Tim Horner was great in the WWF this year, succeeding Barry Horowitz, who does have more color. Horner had some good matches with horrible talent. Horowitz is a class act in this unappreciated category. I've seen him live at a lot of smaller shows, and he never fails to get a crowd to boo

him. Unlike most jobbers, he'll take the time to bait the crowd and is generally good at it. Lime green tights a trademark.

JACK ORTIZANO: I don't know how Bob Bradley can always look so happy going into the ring against those monsters, but he always does. Lee Scott (2) takes some incredible bumps. Terry Funk (3) performed the classiest main event jobs of the decade.

STEVE YOHE: (1) Lee Scott - got pushed around by everyone...lucky he didn't get killed by Sid Vicious. (2) Blue Blazer-Owen Hart - showed he could handle the job.

KAREN SHEHORN: (1) Terry Taylor - yes, a wrestler who used to be a top draw is now reduced to losing to people like Honky Tonk Man. (2) Barry Horowitz - he always delivers. He can make a poor wrestler look good.

I. M. : Steve Lombardi - he is the prototypical wrestling villain.

DOYLE NORRIS: One one sticks out like Barry Horowitz.

MARK BENNETT: (1) Lee Scott - Lee Scott had that terrific "US Title match" with Luger. What a skit! He's a great seller.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) Lee Scott - tries harder than any other jobber. (2) George South - a solid worker. (3) Snake Brown - always makes me laugh.

I'M MOST SICK OF...Titan...having to pause out TV commercials when I video tape...Jim Nerd losing people to Titan.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...(from newsletters): more in depth discussion of the wrestlers: who the shooters are...who dislikes who...who jobbers like to work with...other interests (outside the business) or hobbies that wrestlers might have, etc.

I'M MOST SICK OF...Old tired out wrestlers like Andre the Ginat. He's not as mobile anymore plus he's been around since I was a teenager 1964-present. If he would get more physical instead of head butts and choking his opponents, maybe throw in some running clotheslines, he would get more fan approval.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...Owen Hart return to the WWF. He was great as the Blue Blazer. So he lost a few matches. You don't get many rope walkers like him often...Andre turn babyface before he retires.

-NAME WITHHELD #3-  
-Los Angeles, CA-

# COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR

## JESSE VENTURA

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Jesse Ventura  
1987: Jesse Ventura

Coupled with the Announcer of the Year award he won in 1986, Jesse Ventura completes a four year sweep as color man on WWF telecasts. This year, the winning margin was less than previous years however (Jesse won the 87 award by 196 points).

| COLOR MAN            | 1st       | 2nd       | 3rd      | total      |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| <b>JESSE VENTURA</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>105</b> |
| Jim Cornette         | 11        | 12        | 11       | 68         |
| Michael Hayes        | 3         | 4         | 6        | 23         |
| Nick Bockwinkel      | 1         | 3         | 5        | 14         |
| Terry Funk           | 3         | 2         | 0        | 13         |
| Scotty the Body Levy | 2         | 2         | 2        | 12         |
| Bobby Heenan         | 1         | 2         | 2        | 9          |
| Kevin Sullivan       | 1         | 1         | 1        | 6          |
| Jim Ross             | 0         | 1         | 2        | 4          |
| Bob Caudill          | 0         | 2         | 0        | 4          |
| Gordon Solie         | 0         | 1         | 1        | 3          |
| Hillbilly Jim        | 1         | 0         | 0        | 3          |
| Tony Rumble          | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2          |
| Paul E Dangerously   | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1          |
| Bob Brown            | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1          |
| Terrance Garvin      | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1          |

### VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: I went with Terry Funk in the top spot this year because of his work on Wrestlewar 89 and from the last few weeks of the year on World Wide. He was able to do something Jesse lacked a bit on: work with a variety of partners. Jesse still gets my second place vote, and the only reason he didn't overtake Funk was because of his work with prepared scripts. Jesse is much better off the cuff. He's at his best when paired with McMahon. Third goes to Jim "give 'em every piece of wrestling trivia you can think of in thirty seconds or less" Cornette.

JOE MANNION: Jesse (1) continued to be the class of all color men. Scotty the Body (2) was very humorous and intermixed "inside" jokes like "on a personal note, if you please" in his commentary. Bulldog Brown (3) was a good compliment to Ed Whalen with his jabs at Whalen.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) Jim Cornette - matched by no one as a commentator. (2) Jesse - slipping a little but still a bright spot in the WWF. (3) Paul e Dangerously - if he gets a job with Titan, it is definitely the NWA's loss.

MARK BENNETT: Jesse has no one even close to him in this category.

KAREN SHEHORN (on her #2 choice): Nick Bockwinkel adds class and intelligence to any program.

DON G. SMITH: Michael Hayes... didn't do it long, but he was the best while he did it.

J.D.McKAY JR (on his third choice): Jesse has lost his edge with a written script.

STEVE YOHE: (1) Terry Funk... will take over the award from Jesse next year.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) Jesse - I love to watch him take pot shots at McMahon during "Superstars." He always does a solid job given the framework of the shows. (2) Bob Caudill - Worked very smoothly with Ross and always put in a good performance on the big shows. (3) Jim Cornette - heel or face, he always did a good job of getting the proper information across.

# WORST WRESTLER

## ANDRE THE GIANT

21

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Ultimate Warrior  
1987: Junk Yard Dog  
1986: Mike Von Erich

Andre the Giant has never finished lower than 5th in the balloting for worst wrestler, his closest call coming last year when he finished third. The award has traditionally gone to wrestlers who have no clue as to what to do in the ring. In this case, the recommended move for Andre would be retirement.

| WRESTLER          | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| ANDRE THE GIANT   | 16  | 12  | 7   | 79    |
| Ultimate Warrior  | 5   | 7   | 4   | 33    |
| Jim Duggan        | 3   | 2   | 5   | 18    |
| Zeus              | 4   | 0   | 2   | 14    |
| Dusty Rhodes      | 3   | 1   | 2   | 13    |
| Dino Bravo        | 2   | 2   | 2   | 12    |
| John Studd        | 1   | 2   | 1   | 8     |
| Tommy Rich        | 1   | 2   | 1   | 8     |
| Junk Yard Dog     | 1   | 1   | 3   | 8     |
| Akeem             | 1   | 1   | 2   | 7     |
| Sid Vicious       | 2   | 0   | 1   | 7     |
| Baron Von Raschke | 2   | 0   | 0   | 6     |
| Eric Embry        | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Hulk Hogan        | 0   | 2   | 0   | 4     |
| Ding Dongs        | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Ken Patera        | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Nicolai Volkoff   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Lanny Poffo       | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Larry Zbyszko     | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Stan Fraizer      | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Hercules          | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Randy Savage      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Terry Taylor      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Bossman           | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Brutus Beefcake   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Steve Williams    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Haku              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| PY Chu Hi         | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Giant Baba        | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Steve Lombardi    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Warlord           | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Honky Tonk Man    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| John Tenta        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Bushwhackers      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Norman            | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Kokina            | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Butch Reed        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: NICOLAI VOLKOFF is one of the nicest guys you'd ever want to meet. He doesn't party after matches, he doesn't do drugs, doesn't drink, and reads a lot. It still doesn't make him any better of a wrestler. He's the worst I saw this year. Second goes to Andre who is just a nano step behind. Third goes to John Studd who had the guts to come out of retirement. He's vanished again, let's hope that he's lost those white tights with the stars. He can't wrestle without them (or even with).

MIKE MILLER: (1) Jim Duggan - he's the absolute worst. At least Ultimate Warrior has movement (even if it is a little). All Duggan is is a fat slob. His forearm (on clotheslines) miss by at least a foot each time. (2) Ultimate Warrior - Mr. Respiration is gonna die if he doesn't start exercising soon...I hate to say that, but it will happen.

MIKE MCCULLOUGH (on his second choice): Terry Taylor - once he would have gotten my "best" vote, but now that he's a farm animal, he's lousy.

J.D. McKAY Jr.: Andre the Giant - can't we start a petition to retire this man?

NAME WITHHELD #1: Why is the Wrestler of the year hardest to fill and this the easiest? Only three? I could go on and on. First is Andre. I hate to vote for someone who has the physical problems he has and shouldn't even be near a ring, but if he insists on entering the ring (not wrestling) then he is undoubtedly my first choice.

TERESA DEMARIE: Another coup for the WWF. Duggan is the laziest guy around. He made every WWF card I went to see with him on it an excruciating experience. This guy has the charisma to be over big, but is so unwilling to work, he can't even get over in the WWF which says a lot. Andre (2) has been bad for years, but he has a health excuse at least. Unfortunately, he doesn't realize how bad he is or he wouldn't be wrestling. He can't have a good match with anyone at this point. He did try at MSG vs Warrior on 9/30, which is the only thing saving him from first place. Ultimate Warrior, that idol of the Steroid Stuffed Future Wrestling Stars of America, couldn't work a better match than Elizabeth could to save his life. Can be carried by those who are good wrestlers and friends of his, which shows some improvement over his performance last year, but still can't go three minutes without spouting up a lung. Every-time I see him, I want to donate to the American Lung Society.



## ANGLE OF THE YEAR

## FUNK ATTACKS FLAIR 5/7/89

## PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Original Midnight Express  
attacks Midnight Express.  
1987: see feud of the year  
1986: Orndorff turns on Hogan

The angle of the year is for the skit or story line that sets up any sort of feud or match. This year's winner come from May 7 in Nashville when Terry Funk attacked Flair after Ric had regained the NWA title.

| ANGLE                                              | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| FUNK ATTACKS FLAIR                                 | 27  | 7   | 4   | 99    |
| Savage turns on Hogan                              | 8   | 9   | 4   | 46    |
| Cornette turns on Dudes                            | 3   | 7   | 8   | 31    |
| Luger turn (on Steamboat)                          | 0   | 7   | 6   | 20    |
| Robin Green                                        | 2   | 3   | 3   | 15    |
| Piper/Rude on Brother Love                         | 0   | 3   | 4   | 10    |
| Steamboat's return                                 | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| Zeus as a "real" wrestler                          | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Destruction Crew beats up Patera/Rheingan-car lift | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Nord/Grappler Breakfast                            |     |     |     |       |
| Club skit                                          | 0   | 2   | 0   | 4     |
| Dusty as Tidy Bowl Man                             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Midnight vs Midnight *                             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Nord-Piper fire extinguisher brawl (Pac NoWest)    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Teddy Long fast count on Road Warriors             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| 4 Horsemen reunite                                 | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Brother Love in diaper                             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Lawler turns heel                                  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Flair-Funk I Quit                                  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Curt Hennig Mr Perfect intro skits                 | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Hennig destroys WWF belt                           | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Condrey turn heel-CWF                              | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Marietta Massacre                                  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Heenan leaves Prime Time to start Heenan show      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Grappler attacks Rip                               |     |     |     |       |
| Oliver's brother                                   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Twin refs **                                       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Sting Luger confrontation                          | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

\* happened in November 1988, but still qualifies for nomination. Note that it won the 1988 Angle of the Year.

\*\* happened in February 1987; not sure why voter included it on his ballot.

## VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: Even though I knew what was coming two weeks in advance, I found the Terry Funk attack on Flair at Wrestlewar to be not only the most entertaining of this year's skits, but the most effective as well. I didn't vote for the Savage turn because it was spoiled by Hogan's acting job over the fallen Elizabeth. Instead, my second choice was Luger's turn on Steamboat. The turn caught most casual fans by surprise and I thought it was well done. Third goes to the build up of the Robin Green-Woman scenario. It helped to get Rick Steiner over as a baby even more and was good all the way up to the point that Woman opened her mouth for her first interview.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I was completely fooled by the Jim Cornette/Dudes/Midnight Express angle. I thought for sure that Cornette was going to wimp out and go with the Dudes. That's why I put it above the other angles on my list. They were predicatable and everyone knew they were coming. Occasionally, I like to be surprised.

I. M. : Midnight Express vs Original Midnight Express - I thought for sure Vince was going to steal this one by having Santana and Martel forming two new versions of Strike Force.

ERIC HOYME: Put me down for Funk attacking Flair. Flair had to be put over as a babyface and Funk did that, leaving no question in anyone's mind as to who was playing which role. My second choice left some question to that problem. I enjoyed the Savage turn, but you gotta admit, Savage had good reason to be "mad at Hogan."

TERESA DEMARIE: For sheer success, you have to go with Savage/Hogan. Randy carried this whole skit, Hogan was terrible, but hey, we're not talking the Oscar race here. If you want good angles on TV, you can't do better than Piper. The Nord/Piper/Grappler brawl (2) in Portland was great bizarre mayhem-smoke everywhere, blood brawling in the crowd, bodies all over. Too bad this didn't happen in a major federation-would it ever have been over big outside of Portland! Interview work by Piper leading up to the brawl as the reluctant hero was excellent. Much can be said of Rude and Piper in the WWF. The Prime Time show prefacing the feud was a lesson in how to build heat on a TV show. While Rude normally has the acting talent and finesse of a sprig of lettuce, the genuine heat here made for some of the heaviest heat I've ever seen at matches. The "Rod Awakening" skit and the Brother Love confrontation were the best TVwork skits in the WWF this year for pure entertainment.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) Funk attacks Flair - very well done, and helped to kick off the feud with a big start. (2) Hogan with Liz/Savage pops Hogan - the dumbest and most important angle of the year for the WWF. Savage was exceptional and made the whole thing work. (3) Luger attacks Steamboat - this was one of the best angles to turn a wrestler and put him over that I've seen. Very well played by both men.

# DUMBEST/WORST ANGLE

## DUSTY RHODES' INTRO SKITS

23

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Return of the Midnight Rider  
1987: Ric Flair & the mannequin  
1986: Masked Machines in WWF

For the second year in a row, Dusty Rhodes is involved in the dumbest/worst angle of the year. It's interesting to note that the Tidy Bowl skit in particular received a number of votes on its own. Many ballots contained both the tidy bowl skit as well as "Dusty's other skits."

| ANGLE                                          | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| DUSTY'S INTRO SKITS                            | 6   | 8   | 5   | 39    |
| Plastic Bag angle                              | 8   | 4   | 2   | 34    |
| Embry wrestles for World Class stock           | 6   | 2   | 2   | 24    |
| Zeus becomes a wrestler                        | 5   | 3   | 1   | 22    |
| Scott Norton's arm wrestling challenge         | 4   | 1   | 4   | 18    |
| Tidy Bowl Skit                                 | 3   | 1   | 1   | 12    |
| DeBeers begs for money                         | 1   | 4   | 1   | 12    |
| Rooster gimmick/Prime Time brawl with Lombardi | 1   | 3   | 1   | 10    |
| Ding Dongs                                     | 1   | 3   | 1   | 10    |
| Bravo-Warrior push-ups                         | 3   | 0   | 1   | 10    |
| Garvin retirement/ref                          | 1   | 2   | 1   | 8     |
| Savage turn/Hogan's acting                     | 2   | 0   | 1   | 7     |
| Andre chokes Warrior                           | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Wrestlemania V pit                             | 0   | 2   | 1   | 5     |
| Funk attacks Flair                             | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| Woman intros Doom                              | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| Toni Adams' spanking                           | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Woman attacks Scott Steiner in limo            | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Gagne-Zbyszko draw                             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Cornette turns heel                            | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Valentine's shinguard                          | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Dusty's girlfriend                             | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Norman                                         | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Road Warriors spike Dusty in eye               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| WWF SUMMERSlam fantasy hype                    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Unprovoked violence on women                   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| NWA King of Hill BR                            | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Steamboat's family unit                        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| DeBeers-Dukes paint match                      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Dusty & Bossman                                | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Rude as sex symbol                             | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| (macho) King concept                           | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: The plastic bag angle was offensive to me as a parent, but more so, it was a perfect example of the NWA's double standard; don't shed any blood but go ahead and try to kill someone. Second on my list was the Tidy Bowl skit. It had a double meaning with Dusty always having been known as a plumber's son. It still didn't make it any less stupid. Third was the Wrestlemania pit segment with Brother Love and Morton Downey Jr. Other than to reintroduce Piper, it served no purpose including, but not limited to getting heat, laughs or anything else but indifference.

MIKE MILLER: (1) Zeus becomes a real life wrestler - once again the WWF showed their intelligence by putting an actor in the ring - all because of a movie. They claimed it was over who the real star was, but I never once heard Zeus say that. (2) The humiliation continues. If Taylor has any brains he'll get out - NOW. He's no longer a wrestler - just a farm animal. (3) Garvin as a ref - what an angle! He looks more like an auctioneer.

RON DOBRATZ: On 6/23, the Chicago sports channel televised the first area AWA card in more than a year, live from the Odeum in suburban Villa Park. The main event was a title match between champion Larry Zbyszko and Greg Gagne. Because of 7 bouts of lesser importance and much "filler" TV time for commercials and interviews, the big championship match began at 9:40 with a time limit of TV expiration at 10:00. Gagne clamps the sleeper on at 9:55 and the bell rang, ending the bout because of the time limit. TV has time for more commercials and a summary from the announcers. (2) The Dynamic Dudes - Midnight Express angle with Cornette in the middle was the year's best...until the conclusion Going for the "we fooled you" scenario instead of doing what was being developed - continuing to be subtle and continuing the story until Jim betrayed his "new" team for the "old" team at a later date was DUMB.

KAREN SHEHORN: (1) Hogan-Liz-Randy triangle on NBC Prime Time Special - The prime time special was shockingly bad. It aggravated an already difficult situation when I tried to justify my love for wrestling to the non fans who believe the WWF IS pro wrestling.

J.D. MCKAY JR. (on his third choice): 3) while not the dumbest, the worst executed was the attack on Scott Steiner in the parking lot.

STEVE YOHE: (1) Dusty's Tidy Bowl - worse than Flair's doll, the Midnight Rider or the strip tease battle royals. The worst ever.

ERIC HOYME: Even though the Ding Dongs (2) were dumbest thing I've seen in a long time, but the plastic bag angle was the worst.

# FEUD OF THE YEAR

## RIC FLAIR VS TERRY FUNK

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Midnight Express vs Fantastics  
 1987: Jerry Lawler vs Tommy Rich/Austin Idol  
 1986: see angle of the year

The Feud of the Year is based on the best SERIES of matches held between two wrestlers around the country or circuit. Fan interest and workrate are the two most important factors in determining the winners. This year, Ric Flair finally finishes first with his feud with Terry Funk.

| FEUD                     | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| FLAIR VS FUNK            | 24  | 11  | 3   | 97    |
| Flair vs Steamboat       | 16  | 14  | 4   | 80    |
| SaVAGE VS Hogan          | 4   | 6   | 10  | 34    |
| Rockers v Brainbusters   | 1   | 0   | 8   | 11    |
| Rude vs Warrior          | 1   | 1   | 3   | 8     |
| Hennig vs Hart           | 1   | 2   | 0   | 7     |
| Sting vs Muta            | 0   | 2   | 2   | 6     |
| Warriors vs SST          | 0   | 0   | 4   | 4     |
| Steiners vs Freebirds    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Piper vs Rude            | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Santana vs Martel        | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Steiners vs Varsity Club | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Steamboat vs Luger       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Tsruta vs Tenyru         | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Warriors vs Skyscrapers  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Lawler vs "the world"    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Riger vs Sano            | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Hogan vs Bossman         | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Express vs Dudes         | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Hogan vs Hennig          | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Steiners vs Doom         | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER'S COMMENTS

Gallagher: I chose the Flair-Steamboat series first. They had three matches that will be long remembered (and argued as to which was the best) that will no doubt take top spots in both match of the year and match of the decade. Add that to the matches they had around the country and you've got an undisputed feud of the year in my book. Second goes to Flair and Funk. They had two matches that were widely viewed and very few, if any, reports received here about their tour matches had anything bad to say. Third on the list was the best matches from the WWF as done by the Rockers and Tully and Arn.

KAREN SHEHORN: (1) Flair vs Funk - Their matches made the whole year worthwhile. (2) Flair vs Steamboat - classic technical matches.

ERIC HOYME: Flair and Steamboat put on the best all round matches. There's no arguing that. Second is more difficult, but I gave the nod to Savage and Hogan due to the success of the feud financially and I'll go with Funk-Flair in third.

NAME WITHHELD #1: (1) Flair vs Steamboat - for the great matches. (2) Flair vs Funk - for great matches, great interviews, and a superb effort by Funk. (3) Brainbusters vs Rockers - great matches, even at house shows, the brightest spot of WWF shows all year.

SEAN HENDRICK: (1) Funk vs Flair - great matches, great interviews, some very good angles with a great finish. (2) Rick Rude vs Ultimate Warrior - some fun angles, matches that were surprisingly good and it stayed fairly hot throughout. (3) Flair vs Steamboat - This seemed to be more of a case of two pros going to work rather than a heated feud. Still, they had incredible matches.

TERESA DEMARIE: Steamboat and Flair had the best matches this year, certainly the best of this last half decade, and that easily carries them to #1. While Savage-Hogan matches can make no such claim, the amount of green this feud garnered qualifies it for the most successful feud of 1989. Piper and Rude is a tremendous feud, except for the matches, but with Piper's injuries, there's not much that can be done about it. Had the best TV work of any feud this year, genuine heat, and faced off two of the most diametrically opposite guys personality-wise in this business, despite the fact they are both really heels in the business.

I'M MOST SICK OF...how the WWF dominates the television in my area. They are on TV four times on Saturday, one time on Sunday, one time Monday. There is too much talk and not enough good wrestling. With the WWF, they try to overshadow matches.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...less programs per alliance, more variety. I want to see Portland and Memphis or Stampede. Maybe the lesser shows the better angles and wrestling. Do it like Bill Watts' show was doing it. I looked forward to their shows.

-TERRY PARKER-  
 -Shawnee, OK-

# DUMBEST/WORST FEUD

## ANDRE THE GIANT VS ULTIMATE WARRIOR

25

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Brutus Beefcake vs Ron Bass  
1987: see worst angle  
1986: see worst angle

The dumbest/worst feud award usually goes to a feud with either a terrible workrate, or two wrestlers that no one really cares about. This year's winner is the former, featuring matches around the country that lastes an average of one minute each.

| FEUD                          | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| ANDRE VS ULTIMATE WARRIOR     | 22  | 8   | 3   | 85    |
| Luger vs Rich                 | 4   | 3   | 7   | 25    |
| Duggan vs Haku                | 1   | 9   | 2   | 23    |
| Embry vs Akbar/PY Chu Hi      | 2   | 2   | 4   | 14    |
| Hogan vs Zeus                 | 2   | 1   | 2   | 10    |
| Rooster vs Brawler            | 1   | 1   | 3   | 10    |
| Studd/Hillbilly vs Andre      | 2   | 2   | 0   | 10    |
| Bravo vs Warrior              | 1   | 3   | 0   | 9     |
| Militia vs Dudes              | 1   | 1   | 3   | 8     |
| Rhodes vs Bossman             | 1   | 1   | 2   | 7     |
| Garvin vs Valentine           | 1   | 1   | 2   | 7     |
| Duggan vs Bravo               | 2   | 0   | 1   | 7     |
| Snuka vs Honky Tonk Man       | 1   | 1   | 2   | 7     |
| Steiners vs Doom              | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Slaughter vs DeBeers          | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Warrior vs Honky Tonk Man     | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Zen vs Rotundo                | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Midnight Express vs Dudes     | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Bravo vs Hercules             | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Dukes vs Debeers              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Duggan vs Savage              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Bravo vs Garvin               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Olympians vs Destruction Crew | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Duggan vs Andre               | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Gilbert vs Muta               | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Lawler vs Von Erich           | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| JYD vs Butch Reed             | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Brainbusters vs Bushwhackers  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Orton vs Murdoch              | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Hogan vs Hennig               | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER COMMENTS:

GALLAGHER: Even though we know why Andre can't wrestle, it's not fair to fans who are built up to believe that they are going to see a war between Warrior and Andre and are treated to three clotheslines and a pinfall. The most action these two saw during this feud was when Andre went after the cameraman in Des Moines. Second place on my list is the Duggan-Haku fiasco. Noone cares about the king business anyway and these two boring wrestlers didn't help any. Third goes to Eric Embry and his quest to gain control of World Class stock. The matches against Akbar's group and PY Chu HI(kerson) weren't that bad, but the concept behind the matches was stupid, complicated and predictable.

JACK ORTIZANO: Everything about the Warrior-Andre feud was a disaster. Terrible wrestling, excessively short matches, making the fans angry and the photographer's much publicized lawsuit.

KAREN SHEHORN: (1) Andre vs Warrior - these matches were an embarrassment to wrestling and wrestlers everywhere.

MIKE MILLER: (1) Andre vs Studd - What a waste. These two couldn't get heat if they torched themselves. Even when pressing the fast forward button, they were in slow motion. (2) Andre vs Warrior - the Stay-Puff Marshmallow Man will get toasted one of these days. He's a sorry excuse for a human. (3) Bravo-Duggan - This is the only match I ever fell asleep during while watching it live. A couple of slobs with two left feet.

DOYLE NORRIS: If Andre vs Warrior isn't unanimous, I'll be suplexed off the top rope.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: (1) Luger vs Rich - what a shame to saddle Luger with this has been. (2) Andre vs Warrior - the worst 30 seconds of any WWF card. (3) Embry vs Devastation - boy doesn't Eric have all the qualities to be our hero?

TERESA DEMARIE: Take the two worst wrestlers in the WWF (a feat in itself) and put them in the ring together. Get out the respirators for this one-the fans are in danger of being bored to death. Fortunately, we were spared for the most part by allowing them to go only 30 seconds. How the fans booed - but how they should be thankful. Duggan vs Savage (2) had no business headlining a card in the US which is what Vince found out. Along with Bravo, any feud with Duggan is a good way to end a career. If Duggan gets to be king in my country, well, I defect. Now, you can take the best team in the WWF, the Brainbusters, and put them in the ring with two of the biggest jokes in the WWF, the Bushwhackers (3). I question whether Ric Flair or Ricky Steamboat could have a decent match with either of the Whackers, the tag team version of Jim Duggan. This is how Vince rewards good work. No wonder his house shows aren't drawing of late.

ERIC HOYME (on his 3rd choice): Rooster vs Brawler - I actually saw fans get up and head for the concession stand after Brawler was introduced. The place was half empty for the finish.

**PREVIOUS WINNERS:**

1988: Sting & Hulk Hogan (tie)  
 1987: Hulk Hogan  
 1986: Hulk Hogan

For the fourth year in a row, Hulk Hogan claims the Best Babyface category (or a part of it). Only last year was he challenged for the title when he and Sting tied for the honors.

| <u>WRESTLER</u>   | <u>1ST</u> | <u>2ND</u> | <u>3RD</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>HULK HOGAN</b> | <b>26</b>  | <b>4</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>89</b>    |
| Sting             | 8          | 11         | 9          | 55           |
| Ric Flair         | 5          | 11         | 5          | 42           |
| Ultimate Warrior  | 3          | 8          | 9          | 36           |
| Roddy Piper       | 1          | 2          | 1          | 8            |
| Rick Steiner *    | 1          | 0          | 4          | 7            |
| Brian Pillman     | 0          | 2          | 2          | 6            |
| Akira Maeda       | 1          | 1          | 1          | 6            |
| Rick Steamboat    | 1          | 1          | 1          | 6            |
| Norman            | 1          | 0          | 0          | 3            |
| Hillbilly Jim     | 1          | 0          | 0          | 3            |
| Brutus Beefcake   | 0          | 1          | 0          | 2            |
| Jake Roberts      | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1            |
| Carl Styles       | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1            |
| Tito Santana      | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1            |
| Steiners *        | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1            |
| Scott Steiner *   | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1            |

\* The Steiners received the votes as listed above. Should the votes have been combined, the totals would have looked like this:

|          |   |   |   |   |
|----------|---|---|---|---|
| Steiners | 1 | 0 | 6 | 9 |
|----------|---|---|---|---|

**VOTER'S COMMENTS**

Gallagher: Hogan was my first choice for obvious reasons. The fact that he continues to draw and remain on top after this long is a tribute to his charisma. Second was Ric Flair who worked hard to get himself over and had one of the top heels working to get him over as well. Third on my list was Ultimate Warrior. We all know he blows up on his way to the ring, but no one seems to notice because they're too busy cheering.

TERESA DEMARIE: For all the unkind comments I may make about Hogan, he owns this category. He's in a position to remain the #1 baby for years, though we will probably see a dropoff in his popularity come 1990 since Warrior is cucking air right behind him these

days. Is certainly charismatic, can do a good interview, can't work, but that's OK - his foes do. I never thought Piper (2) could become a strong face but he proved me wrong this year. Has major obstacle to overcome - he's far too strong in the personality department to find a heel that can face off with him successfully. Has far too much natural menace, a nsaty ringstyle and an overwhelming mouth. Has worked very hard this past year (especially on Prime Time) to tone down the crazy aspect of his persona and has hown glimpses of his real personality in order to more balance himself out, something he would never have done prior to this year. Hulkie Jr. aka Ultimate Warrior, is a great example of a face that just stands there and has to do nothing, which is all he is capable of. Great look, like a comic book super-hero, which is why he is over. Gets incredible heat at the house shows, which scares me. Has an "in" with the kiddies and will probably force Hogan out.

NAME WITHHELD #2: 1 - Hogan, 2 - Warrior, 3 - Sting. Isn't it amazing that the first two can't work a match and it seems that number three has forgotten how to. Is this a dreaded disease that affects only the babies?

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) Hogan - he still has it, it's slipping, but he's still on top. 2) Ultimate Warrior - came on real strong this year and if given the opportunity, could take the top spot soon. 3) Sting - A very strong face who makes the most of it, with limited help from the promotion (got some help with his pairing with Flair).

# BEST FINISHING MANEUVER

## SCOTT STEINER'S FRANKENSTEINER

27

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Owen Hart's moonsault  
1987: Diamond & Tanaka's slingshot DDT  
1986: Jake Roberts' DDT

Each year, the moves become more and more spectacular. In the 50's, a bodyslam or an airplane spin was enough to put an opponent away and draw oohs and ahhs from the crowd. Now, those moves are simply transition moves. This year's winner, the Frankensteiner, is a variation on a Japanese flying head scissors that has taken everyone by surprise.

| MANEUVER & WRESTLER                   | 1ST       | 2ND      | 3RD      | TOTAL     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>SCOTT STEINER'S FRANKENSTEINER</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>69</b> |
| Muta's moonsault                      | 7         | 7        | 6        | 41        |
| Jake Roberts' DDT                     | 2         | 5        | 3        | 19        |
| Road Warriors' top rope clothesline   | 4         | 2        | 1        | 17        |
| Scott Steiner blockbuster slam        | 2         | 3        | 1        | 13        |
| Rick Steiner's bearhug suplex         | 2         | 0        | 4        | 10        |
| Hulk Hogan's cage-superplex           | 1         | 2        | 3        | 10        |
| Curt Hennig's perfect-plex            | 1         | 1        | 2        | 7         |
| Steinerline                           | 1         | 1        | 0        | 5         |
| Skyscrapers' Powerbomb                | 0         | 2        | 1        | 5         |
| Air Pillman                           | 1         | 1        | 0        | 5         |
| Brainbuster stuff piledriver          | 1         | 0        | 2        | 5         |
| Sting scorpion/splash                 | 1         | 0        | 1        | 4         |
| Jimmy Snuka's superfly                | 0         | 1        | 2        | 4         |
| Steamboat's chickenwing               | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Powers of Pain clothesline            | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Terry Taylor's chickenwing            | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Destruction Crew's clotheline         | 0         | 1        | 1        | 3         |
| Rockers' double dropkick from ropes   | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Arn's gourdbuster                     | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Barry Windham's superplex             | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Ultimate Warrior's press slam         | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Steve Williams' stampede              | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Blanchard's slingshot suplex          | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Bad News Brown's ghetto blaster       | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Rockers' bombs away                   | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Bossman's bubba slam                  | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| SST's DDT from ropes                  | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Flair's superplex                     | 0         | 1        | 0        | 2         |
| Midnight Express rocket launcher      | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Zeus' neck twist                      | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Muta's handspring elbow               | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Cactus Jack elbow from apron          | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Eddie Gilbert's hot shot              | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Randy Savage's elbow drop             | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Arn Anderson's DDT                    | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Rick Steiner's belly to belly         | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |

### VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: When I first saw the Frankensteiner, my eyes just about popped out of my head. Scott uses it just about every match and it seems to be the move that the crowd waits for. I've only seen him hiss it once and it looks extremely difficult to do. Second is Muta's moonsault. When he did it to Doug Gilbert at Wrestlewar, I thought he climbed the wrong turnbuckle, he was so far away. It makes Lanny Poffo's moonsault look wimpy. Third is Rick Steiner's bearhug suplex. I was impressed with Chavo Guerrero's version of a couple years ago and it's nice to see it revived to an extent.

JACK ORTIZANO: Best move of the year was Muta's leap from inside the ring onto his opponent outside on the ring-apron. But it wasn't a "finishing maneuver." Neither were Ric Flair's sensational chops. Thus, Steamboat's chicken wing takes top honors for gaining a submission from Flair.

TERESA DEMARIE: The only one that gets consistent oohs and ahhs everytime I see it is the Frankensteiner. While everyone does it, Snuka's superfly leap (2) still gets the best reaction. Jakes DDT (3) is probably the most over move in the WWF. A wrestler successful because of a reptile and a move. Not much more to say.

ERIC HOYME: Okay, everyone and his mother is doing the DDT now. There are four or five moonsaults out there now. But NOBODY does the Frankensteiner. Nobody! Second goes to the blockbuster slam/suplex that wiped out Sid Vicious, if for no other reason than it saved wrestling from the likes of Vicious. Third goes to Hogan and his top of the cage superplex.

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) Scott Steiner's blockbuster suplex - amazing! Every time he uses this move, I think he'll crush his own head. 2) Ric Flair's superplex - it's not really the move so much as how well Ric executes the move. 3) Jimmy Snuka's superfly leap - it still impresses after all these years. It looks better now since Snuka is bigger than he was.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I'd be willing to be that Jake's DDT finishes in the top three though I can't figure out why. The only opponents he ever gets to do it on are jobbers or poor Virgil.

I'M MOST SICK OF...The WWF's dubbed in crowd noises, like we can't SEE that the audience is in a zombie-like state...Hulk Hogan...McMahon destroying one time stars (Taylor, Al Perez, Tim Horner...)...Jim Ross using "Oh My God!" every thirty seconds or so...non pinfall results at major cards...Bookers that push themselves...Braves baseball pre-empting the NWA.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...a Flair-Hogan match (I can dream can't I)...more local independent cards...local Pay Per View...More NWA fans and fewer WWF fans...DiBiase, Bret Hart, the Rockers, Al Perez, Koko B Ware, and Bad News Brown all leave the WWF.

-WADE BILLS-  
-Salt Lake City, UT-

## PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Ted DiBiase  
 1987: Terry Taylor  
 1986: Michael Hayes

For the first time in four years, an NWA wrestler has been put over as Heel of the Year. Terry Funk ran away with the category, but the runners up were closely contested.

| WRESTLER             | 1ST       | 2ND       | 3RD      | TOTAL     |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>TERRY FUNK</b>    | <b>22</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>90</b> |
| Lex Luger            | 8         | 11        | 5        | 51        |
| Randy Savage         | 9         | 5         | 13       | 50        |
| Rick Rude            | 5         | 7         | 9        | 38        |
| Ted DiBiase          | 2         | 2         | 1        | 11        |
| Curt Hennig          | 1         | 2         | 1        | 8         |
| Barry Windham        | 1         | 0         | 1        | 4         |
| Larry Zbyszko        | 0         | 1         | 1        | 3         |
| Honky Tonk Man       | 0         | 1         | 1        | 3         |
| Big Bossman          | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Colonel DeBeers      | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Ric Flair            | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Scotty the Body Levy | 0         | 0         | 2        | 2         |
| Jerry Lawler         | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Great Muta           | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         |
| Andre the Giant      | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         |

## VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: After thinking about it, Terry Funk probably should have made my list, but I didn't include him since the only wrestler he feuded with was Ric Flair. He was awesome, especially in getting Flair over as a baby, but the three that made my list had various feuds plus generated a general hatred towards themselves. First was Rick Rude. His persona had both men and women loathing him. Feuding with babies like Roddy Piper and Ultimate Warrior didn't hurt any either. Second was Lex Luger who got the nod here because of his appearance and interviews. Savage was third on the list, again helped by the fact that he was paired with Hogan for the better part of the year. Sherri at ringside helped to get him over as well.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: 1) Terry Funk - worked harder to be hated than anyone else this year. 2) Lex Luger - an incredible natural heel. 3) Randy Savage - Still the Fed's strongest villian.

JACK ORTIZANO: Was there anyone else besides Terry Funk?

DOYLE NORRIS: Funk should write a book on how to do it.

KAREN SHEHORN (on her 1st choice): Terry Funk - As always, the man you love to hate. He takes evils to new heights.

ERIC HOYME: Terry Funk should have made everyone's list. He wasn't much of a heel in the WWF a few years ago, but that wasn't the case this year. He could have gotten over as the biggest killer heel in the past few years if only Sting would have done that one job for him. Even without it, there were plenty of casual fans who thought that he had ended Ric Flair's career.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Rude gets the nod over Funk and Savage. At live shows, he doesn't get ANY cheers. You can't say that about anyone in the NWA with the exception of Funk. That's why Funk gets the # 2 spot on my list. Third goes to Savage who became the most hated man on the face of the earth with 12-14 year olds when he left Hogan.

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) Terry Funk - as far as I'm concerned, this guy wrote the book. Even with Gary Hart slowing him down, he was incredible. 2) Lex Luger - will be the top heel of the 90's. Very strong finish this year, and is still improving. 3) Rick Rude - solid, consistent, but starting to wear a little thin,

# BEST TV SHOW

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING (WTBS)

29

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Clash of Champions series  
1987: Saturday Night's Main Event  
1986: Bill Watts presents UWF

For the first year, we separated the TV specials from the regular weekly shows. WTBS programming took three of the top four spots this year.

| TV SHOW                                    | 1ST       | 2ND       | 3RD      | TOTAL     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Saturdays WTBS)</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>71</b> |
| NWA Power Hour                             | 13        | 5         | 9        | 58        |
| USA Network's Prime Time                   | 6         | 5         | 3        | 31        |
| WTBS Main Event                            | 4         | 5         | 8        | 30        |
| WWF Superstars (syndicated)                | 4         | 10        | 3        | 25        |
| Portland                                   | 3         | 1         | 3        | 14        |
| NWA World Wide (syndicated)                | 0         | 1         | 5        | 7         |
| All Japan                                  | 2         | 0         | 0        | 6         |
| Bobby Heenan show                          | 1         | 0         | 0        | 3         |
| CWA-Memphis                                | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| New Japan                                  | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| WWF Challenge                              | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Saturday Night's Main Event                | 0         | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| USWA-World Class                           | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         |
| Legends of World Class                     | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         |
| AWA                                        | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         |

### VOTER COMMENTS

Gallagher: It was a hard choice between the Power Hour and the Saturday TBS show, but I ended up picking Power Hour first. I like variety and the Power Hour gave a little of everything including angles, interview slots, great matches and more. The Saturday version of World Championship Wrestling made a strong showing this past year and became, for the most part, a show that was a must-see. Third on my list was the Portland show. I didn't see it on a regular basis, but the random tapes that I did get to see from there had something happening all the time.

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) World Championship Wrestling - after all the changes, I still think it's the most interesting show going. 2) WWF Superstars - just for the glitz. It's more of an update for me just to keep track of the feuds and storylines. 3) Power Hour - Some good matches and solid commentary.

TERESA DEMARIE: Something strange happened to me this year - I actually started watching PrimeTime Wrestling. It wasn't for the matches, but Piper/Heenan turned out to be the best thing on TV since "I Claudius." Piper really changed the chemistry and thrust of the show. You almost wish they wouldn't show wrestling. Superstars (2) is exactly how a wrestling show should look and feel and move. The Matches suck, but that's the WWF. I don't think the fans seem to notice, these guys are so slick. Portland (3) is the most consistently entertaining show on the wrestling tube. Had a lot of good angles this year. If someone had said Portland wrestling would rate as one of the best TV shows this year, I'd have told them to have their head examined. Some of the production quality leaves a lot to be desired, but there's not much to complain about.

ERIC HOYME: I was going to pick the WWF Superstars first, but after attending one of their tapings live, they're lucky to get my third place vote. The fact that they make such a great production out of complete swill is amazing. I'll give my first place vote to World Championship Wrestling from Saturday nights. Maybe if I attended one of those tapings I'd change my mind, but things on that show keep moving. I used to watch it in fast forward, but since the format changed from 30 seconds worth of squashes and three minutes of interviews, it's improved to be the best. Second is the Power Hour. If they could decide on a direction and format, it might be ranked first.

DOYLE NORRIS: 1) WCW-Saturday, TBS, 2) Superstars, 3) AWA on ESPN ...at least the world champion wrestles on my number 1 & 3 choice.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Superstars has to be first. If you miss every other WWF show, or even an edition of Superstars, they will catch you up or update you at least. Second is NWA Main Event. I like it better than the other NWA shows, though I really don't know why. I just do. Is that okay? Third is the syndicated NWA show. I look for its quality to improve especially with people like Chris Cruise and Terry Funk handling the announcing.

I'M MOST SICK OF...Hulk Hogan's posing...Haku... The Genius' gay act (or is it?)...trying to make Zeus out to be invincible...Honky Tonk Man and his guitar (it's getting to be an old old angle).

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...Eddie Gilbert back to what he does best, being a top heel and taking over as booker in the AWA...a Ric Flair vs Brian Pillman pure wrestling match...Hulk HOGan doing another finishing hold...Verne finally selling the AWA to someone who understands wrestling.

-JIM HILL-  
-East Peoria, IL-

I'M MOST SICK OF...Eric Embry being held up as a hero. He's a bum (in my opinion) with no athletic ability...Percy Pringle is a loser also. It is disgusting to see him beaten on Devestation Inc every week. It ALMOST makes me long to see Fritz Von Erich hit Michael Hayes with his boot.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...Akeem turn face...Ultimate turn heel...Rhodes turn heel ("I am the WWF gasp wheeze)...Eric Embry diet and sober up...the AWA with talent that stays.

-CHRIS WILSON-  
-Minneapolis, MN-



# WORST FINISHING MOVE

## HOGAN'S LEG BOMB

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Hogan's Leg Bomb  
 1987: Hogan's Leg Bomb  
 1986: Hogan's Leg Bomb

Geez, you'd think the guy could take a hint! This year's winning margin was the largest in our four year history. Other than that, there wasn't much of a consensus on what constituted a bad finishing maneuver.

### WRESTLER & MANEUVER HOGAN'S LEG BOMB

|                              | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
|                              | 25  | 7   | 2   | 91    |
| Tom Zenk's Sleeper           | 4   | 5   | 6   | 28    |
| Dusty Rhodes' elbow          | 3   | 6   | 3   | 24    |
| Garvin Stomp                 | 4   | 1   | 1   | 15    |
| Ultimate Warrior slam/splash | 1   | 4   | 2   | 13    |
| Tommy Rich's Thesz press     | 3   | 1   | 0   | 11    |
| Ted DiBiase's sleeper        | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Flair's figure four          | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| Hennig's perfect plex        | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Lawler's fist drop           | 0   | 1   | 2   | 4     |
| Dino Bravo's bearhug         | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Andre's elbow                | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Skyscrapers' powerbomb       | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| HTM's shake rattle & roll    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Trooper's pinch              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Randy Savage's elbow         | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Bravo's sideslam             | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Brutus Beefcake's sleeper    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Santana's flying forearm     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Ken Patera's full nelson     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Terry Funk's piledriver      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Earthquake (Tenta) splash    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Von Erich Claw               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Sherri's pocket book ending  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Andre's choke                | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Lex Luger's torture rack     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Antonio Inoki's enzuigeri    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Hogan's chair                | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Sullivan's stomach stomp     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Red Rooster's chicken wing   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Zeus's neck twist            | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Norman's face sit            | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Baron Von Raschke's claw     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Bushwhackers' battering ram  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Russian Brute's heart punch  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Jim Duggan's spear           | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

Third goes to Garvin's stomp. Never did like that move.

STEVE YOHE: 1) DiBiase's sleeper - too good of a wrestler to have a hold designed for someone with no ability.

MIKE MILLER: 1) Hogan's leg drop - most ridiculous finisher of all time...2) Warrior's press slam - can't even press his opponent... 3) Zenk's sleeper - the "Z Man"... z for zero--get a new move!

ERIC HOYME: Can I vote for Hogan's leg drop 1st, 2nd & 3rd? If not, put me down for Zenk's sleeper and Lawler's fistdrop respectively.

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) Hogan's Leg Drop - totally predictable, boring move. Technically, he has the knee bent so much you can tell he never touches his foe. 2) Zenk's sleeper - dull, overused move that is used as a finisher by a dull wrestler. 3) Bravo's side slam - who really cares what he does?

TERESA DEMARIE: Do you think Hogan can try something new more than once every five years? What a boring move. Say what you will, but Funk's piledriver executed on Flair to set up their angle was one of the worst I've ever seen. I've seen him use it in matches and it still looks terrible no matter what camera angle. The Million Dollar Dream (3) is weak, Ted, very weak. He's changed finishers like Rude changes his tights.

### VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: I chose three holds that just bore me to death. Tom Zenk's sleeper heads the list because I expect more out of him. Second is the Trooper pinch, a hold we used to put on each other during grade school.

# BEST INTERVIEW

## TERRY FUNK

31

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Jim Cornette  
1987: Jim Cornette  
1986: Ric Flair

Terry Funk, on the power of his interviews in Florida and the stuff he did to set up his feud with Ric Flair, has unseated Jim Cornette for the top spot in Best Interviews. In one of our closer contests, Funk garnered one more first place vote than Cornette which turned out to be the winning margin

| WRESTLER/MANAGER   | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| TERRY FUNK         | 13  | 9   | 4   | 61    |
| Jim Cornette       | 12  | 6   | 10  | 58    |
| Roddy Piper        | 8   | 4   | 5   | 37    |
| Ric Flair          | 4   | 7   | 9   | 35    |
| Bobby Heenan       | 2   | 2   | 1   | 11    |
| Randy Savage       | 2   | 1   | 2   | 10    |
| Paul E Dangerously | 0   | 3   | 1   | 7     |
| Hulk Hogan         | 0   | 2   | 2   | 6     |
| Road Warriors      | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Rick Steiner       | 2   | 0   | 0   | 6     |
| Road Warrior Hawk  | 0   | 1   | 2   | 4     |
| Larry Zbyszko      | 0   | 2   | 0   | 4     |
| Steiner Brothers   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Dennis Condrey     | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Jerry Lawler       | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Jim Neidhart       | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Demolition         | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Sting              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Honky Tonk Man     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Zeus               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Lex Luger          | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Rick Rude          | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Michael Hayes      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Norman             | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Rick Steamboat     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: Funk did some tremendous interviews this year, but if you could have seen the one he did in Florida while feuding with Dusty Rhodes, there would be no doubt as to the winner of this category. The brawl went all over the Florida studio and ended with Funk grabbing Gordon Solie and saying, "Just once, Gordon, I'm gunna hit ya." Second goes to Larry Zbyszko. In a world of worn out and tired interviews, his trips to Larryland were creative and original. Third goes to Jim Cornette whose impact on interviews was no doubt diminished by his color commentary. He used up a lot of good lines doing that.

MARK BENNETT: Jim Neidhart - he cracks me up every time he opens his mouth

JACK ORTIZANO: The Steiners' appearance on Funk's Grill was hilarious.

KAREN SHEHORN: 1) Jim Cornette - He loves what he does and it shows. He is a delight to watch. 2) Ric Flair - Mr. Class all the way. He really seems to believe everything he says. I'm afraid he's going to have a stroke.

TERESA DEMARIE: Anyone who saw Piper's work in Portland this year shouldn't have any problems with my number one pick. His interviews for the woman who needed a liver were the best and most useful interviews this year. Picked up a lot from acting lessons in Hollywood and his diatribes on Prime Time are acting exercises in themselves. Did terrific Mike work for his feud with Rude as well. Terry Funk (2) was the only other class interview this year. While a bit too laid back at times for my tastes, still gets across as a cowboy that's been out in the sun too long without a hat. Word-wise, does the best interviews around, but is just not an animated fellow. Cornette (3), forced into the face role, just didn't have it to take #1 this year. Still does the same type of interview all the time, but is just not all that entertaining as a face. Heel turn should improve his position next year.

STEVE YOHE: 1) Rick Steiner - yes it's an interview...I'd love to see Funk interview him for a half hour show. 2) Terry Funk 3) Rick Steamboat - best at shoot interviews.

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) Rick Steiner - His style cracks me up every time. It works so well since he delivers it in a style so different from everyone else. 2) Ric Flair - still as sharp as ever (playing off Funk helped) 3) Terry Funk - this guy is more amazing the more you think about it...his interviews have been excellent for how many decades?

ERIC HOYME (on his second choice): With Paul E Dangerously gone from the NWA, I wonder how many voters will forget the tremendous effort he put out in his interviews.

# BEST MAJOR EVENT WRESTLEWAR 89 - 5/7/89

## PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Clash of Champions I (3/27/88)

With the advent of major shows, we created this category last year to honor those big cards. Eligible for nomination were any PPV or TV special. This year, the 5/7 PPV from Nashville which featured Ric Flair regaining the NWA title was named our winner by a slim margin. Dates of the shows nominated are listed in parenthesis.

| EVENT                       | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | total |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| WRESTLEWAR 89 (5/7/89)      | 15  | 7   | 1   | 60    |
| Clash IX (11/15/89)         | 11  | 9   | 0   | 51    |
| Chitown Rumble (2/20/89)    | 6   | 5   | 3   | 31    |
| G. A. Bash (7/23/89)        | 2   | 3   | 10  | 22    |
| Summerslam (8/28/89)        | 2   | 3   | 2   | 14    |
| Clash VII (4/2/89)          | 2   | 2   | 3   | 13    |
| Clash VIII (9/14/89)        | 0   | 2   | 5   | 9     |
| Starrcade 88 (12/26/88)     | 0   | 3   | 2   | 8     |
| Halloween Havok (10/28/89)  | 1   | 1   | 3   | 8     |
| Royal Rumble (1/15/89)      | 2   | 0   | 0   | 6     |
| Wrestlemania V (4/2/89)     | 0   | 1   | 3   | 5     |
| Superclash III (12/13/88)   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Survivor Series (11/23/89)  | 0   | 1   | 2   | 4     |
| Saturday Night M. E. (5/13) | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Starrcade 89 (12/13/89)     | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Main Event Prime Time       |     |     |     |       |
| Special on NBC (2/3/89)     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |

## VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: Being one of the few people on the face of the earth that thought the Oak Ridge Boys added to the May 7 Pay Per View, I put that at the top of my list. The work rate had a lot to do with it too plus the angle with FUNK attacking Flair. Second was the best Clash ever, the 11/15 show from Troy, NY. After a few stinkers, the ending was the hottest four matches assembled. It was like a highlights tape. Third goes to the PPV from Chicago that had Ricky Steamboat winning the NWA title.

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) Wrestlewar; 2) Clash IX; 3) Great American Bash - anytime cards like this come by, it's fun to be a fan.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Clash IX was the best for one reason. It started out lousy

and the heat was tomb-like for the first few matches before the wrestlers turned it on. Second goes to Music City SHOWDOWN on 5-7. It did a lot in regards to setting up the future of the NWA. Not only did they change the title, they also set up a feud that would carry them through two Pay Per Views and the rest of the year. I'll pass on a third choice since nothing else really stands out.

ERIC HOYME: I feel bad about voting only for NWA events here, but nthing the WWf did really stands out. I sure can't vote for SUPERCLASH III; what a piece of garbage.

I'M MOST SICK OF...rulebreakers behind the mike (how is someone supposed to get over as a heel when an announcer is sitting there all but cheering the guy's every move. Makes the announcer look more like the heel than the wrestler himself).... managers interfering in matches and getting away with it (specifically Scary Sherri).... WWF ruining wrestlers careers (Red Rooster, the Departed Owen Hart)...gimmick matches with no blood (cage, No DQ, Texas Death, War Games, etc). If you are afraid of catching a disease or something, then don't sign the match in the first place....Vince McMahon's paranoia towards the NWA when they're "no competition"...WWF using fake crowd noise.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...Scary Sherri get the crap beat out of her (just once)... WWF matches in Boston, Philadelphia, Toronto and Los Angeles being taped again...WWF concentrating more on wrestling than dumb gimmicks..WTBS and NWA not worry about blood and violence, and return to their normal style (blood in title matches and on major shows, etc)...wrestling matches go legit (as far as finishes go. Maybe more fans might go to wrestling matches if the winners weren't so obvious. I know this sounds "mark-ish", but the category does say what things a person wants to see. Stage angles to set things up, but let whoever wins, win.

-ANDY KING-  
-Middletown, NY-

# MOST DISGUSTING EVENT

## DUSTY'S TIDY BOWL SKIT

33

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Brody's murder  
1987: Fritz' handling of Mike's death

What constitutes a disgusting event? Below are listed several different ideas that our readers placed in nomination. Generally, the common theme is something that either embarrasses or outrages fans. Dusty Rhodes takes the category with the lowest point total this year for his tidy bowl skit.

| EVENT                                         | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| DUSTY'S PLUMBER SKIT                          | 8   | 6   | 2   | 38    |
| Plastic Bag Angle                             | 7   | 1   | 3   | 26    |
| Hogan atomic drops Sherri                     | 5   | 2   | 1   | 20    |
| Verne quote in Torch                          | 2   | 4   | 3   | 17    |
| movie No Holds Barred                         | 0   | 4   | 5   | 13    |
| Ding Dongs                                    | 1   | 3   | 3   | 12    |
| Eric Embry vomits in ring                     | 3   | 0   | 1   | 10    |
| Dusty's physical appearance                   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 9     |
| Toni Adams' spanking                          | 2   | 0   | 3   | 9     |
| WWC allowing Gonzales to work as a babyface   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 8     |
| Dusty's other skits                           | 0   | 2   | 2   | 6     |
| DeBeers-Dukes paint angle                     | 2   | 0   | 0   | 6     |
| Lawler's racial slurs                         | 1   | 0   | 2   | 5     |
| Savage's clean jobs for Hogan                 | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| Kerry's blade job at Superclash               | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| WWF detracting credibility                    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| AWA's continued existence                     | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Genius gimmick                                | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Flair as booker                               | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Ed Whalen's "booking"                         | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Bravo-Warrior strongman contest               | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| AWA no shows                                  | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Greg Gagne's push                             | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Brody's death (?)                             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Rude's tights/post match antics               | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Zeus' push                                    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Wrestlemania                                  | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| WWF claims no history                         | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Andre does jobs for Warrior                   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Americans working for Colon                   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Eric Embry as lead babyface                   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| DeBeers begging for money                     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Jake "snaking" jobbers                        | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| hype over Oakland 2                           | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Beauty & Beast attack Miss Linda              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Attack on Billy Haynes' father                | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Dusty & Sapphire                              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| AWA team concept                              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Terry Funk angles                             | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| sheet editors worried about plastic bag angle | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Gallagher's moralistic views                  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Vince's treatment of Stu Hart                 | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Luger chair attacks                           | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| NWA renegs on contracts                       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| WWF ruin great wrestlers                      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Beefcake's haircuts                           | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| attack Rip Oliver's brother                   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Heenan comments on kids                       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Owen Hart as jobber                           | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| wrestling's attitude toward women in general  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: I've spent enough time in Forum complaining about the plastic bag angle. Let's just leave it that I thought that was number one. Two goes to the Tidy Bowl skit which pretty well made me sick. Third goes to Kerry Von

Erich for his prowess with the blade at Superclash III. I've never seen anyone do a triple blade job before and after that, I hope I never do again.

MIKE MILLER: 1) Hulk Hogan atomic dropping Sherri - what a role model, huh? 2) Greg Gagne's push - I was told the only reason Greg was given a title was that his waist was the only one small enough for Wendi Richter's belt to fit around. 3) Verne's comments on Brody in the Torch - they should lock Verne in a room with Stan Hansen and Abby.

DON G. SMITH (on his number 2 choice): Andre reduced to a jobber for Warrior - Andre can't wrestle anymore, but he couldn't wrestle three or four years ago when he beat Hogan and was pushed as virtually indestructible. Why can't people who have given so much to the business be allowed to retire with some dignity?

JACK ORTIZANO: 1) WWF repeatedly detracting from pro wrestling's credibility - an important function of a pro wrestling promotion is to assist spectators in maintaining their suspension of disbelief. The WWF flagrantly disregarded this obligation.

RON DOBRATZ: 1) Hogan's victory over Savage at Wrestlemania V - his invulnerability to Savage's best moves, legdrop win, and becoming the one wrestler in Elizabeth's life. 2) Dusty Rhodes' actions and comments while filming several scenes showing him working at jobs of the "common people" - a lot was vulgar besides the tidy bowl episode. 3) Funk's attack with a plastic bag was not a scenario for a promotion that wants to appeal to children.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Verne's quote in the Torch ( Brody "probably got what he deserved.") made my blood boil. Just because Brody walked out on him a few times because Gagne was a shyster is no reason to say a man should die. If that's the case, then Verne should have been dead long ago for promoting wrestlers to appear that were already working for other promotions, advocating no shows, training wrestlers who didn't have a ghost of a chance, giving miniscule payoffs, ripping off Jarrett and the wrestlers at Superclash III...I could go on and on. I will never understand those who defend the honor of the AWA.

ERIC HOYME (on his third choice): The fact that I paid good money to go see No Holds Barred should top my list, but I'll chalk that one up to a temporary lapse in sanity. Give No Holds Barred my third place vote. I'm in a good mood.

# MANAGER OF THE YEAR

## JIM CORNETTE

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Jim Cornette  
1987: Jim Cornette  
1986: Jim Cornette

The only year that Jim Cornette even came remotely close to not winning the Manager of the Year award was 1986 when he won by only 20½ points. Many of this year's voters commented that 1989 was not the most memorable year for managerial performances.

| <u>MANAGER</u>      | <u>1ST</u> | <u>2ND</u> | <u>3RD</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>JIM CORNETTE</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>5</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>104</b>   |
| Bobby Hennan        | 6          | 15         | 7          | 55           |
| Sherri Martel       | 6          | 8          | 4          | 38           |
| Paul E. Dangerously | 5          | 4          | 14         | 37           |
| Teddy Long          | 0          | 4          | 2          | 10           |
| Elizabeth           | 0          | 3          | 0          | 6            |
| Gary Hart           | 1          | 1          | 1          | 6            |
| Jimmy Hart          | 1          | 0          | 2          | 5            |
| Slick               | 0          | 0          | 5          | 5            |
| Paul Ellering       | 0          | 2          | 0          | 4            |
| Afa the Samoan      | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1            |

### VOTER'S COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: I think that if Cornette hadn't turned on the Dudes, he would have probably lost my vote for manager of the year. He was pretty weak during the middle of the year, but finished strong. Sherri is second due to her ringside antics. She might have been able to overtake Cornette if she could do a decent interview. Third was: Paul E. Dangerously. He's at his best when he's doing unpredictable stuff, but the NWA spent most of the year telling him what he had to do and that hurt.

RON DOBRATZ: 1) Gary Hart, 2) Bobby Heenan, 3) Sherri Martel. I have this feeling that too many of your voters will either be parroting the responses of some omniscient newsletter editors or want to be able to say that they voted for the winners, and leave Hart's name off their ballots. If Hart doesn't wind up among the top three, it will be an injustice. He is a solid professional who was instrumental in changing fans' opinion on Flair and Funk.

NAME WITHHELD #1: 1) Cornette - best on the mike, always knows just what to say and do in any situation. 2) Sherri - does more at ringside than any manager I have ever seen. Really adds to the match and has made entertaining some real duds.

KAREN SHEHORN: 1) Cornette - He lights up any match or show. He knows hoe to work the crowds better than anyone. 2) Heenan, 3) Sherri Martel - Her interviews are bad but she gets incredible heat at ringside and takes terrific bumps.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: 1) Cornette - a runaway winner. 2) Sherri - her work at ringside is better than the work going on in the ring. 3) Paul E. - I was sorry to see him go.

NAME WITHHELD #2: Paul E injected some of the most interesting angles and interviews into a creatively dead promotion early on. I've a feeling that the only reason he was fired was because he turned out to be more creative than those in power.

TERESA DEMAIRE: Sherri Martel takes this easy. Worked harder than all the guys in the WWF this year. Great persona and look for her role. Does possibly the worst interviews around, but with that screechy voice, they are hysterical and effective rather than bad. Looks like a one-off from the Bride of Frankenstein movie, and her dress style and makeup put the Ultimate Warrior to shame. Boobsi Heenan is the only other manager I can rate as #2. Didn't have an outstanding year, but got belts and his own show. While he appreciated the first, he didn't the second. Will be the #1 manager in the WWF for as long as he likes.

# DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR

## VERNE GAGNE & THE AWA

35

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Dusty Rhodes  
1987: Dusty Rhodes  
1986: Fritz Von Erich

The Dipstick of the Year traditionally goes to the member of the wrestling community that does the stupidest thing of the year. It can be given on general principals for a combination of stupid things or for overall incompetence. The winner this year is Verne Gagne/AWA. It's amazing that both were named seperately on enough ballots to garner the first and second places in our poll. Listed below are the combined scores for Verne & the AWA followed by the individual votes and then the rest of the pack. Wherever we can, we list what the nominee was mentioned for.

| NOMINEE                                                     | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| VERNE GAGNE/AWA                                             | 19½ | 8   | 6   | 80½   |
| Verne Gagne                                                 | 10½ | 5   | 3   | 44½   |
| AWA                                                         | 9   | 3   | 3   | 36    |
| Vince McMahon (gen. princ)                                  | 5   | 6   | 2   | 29    |
| Dusty Rhodes                                                | 7   | 3   | 1   | 28    |
| Jim Herd (for contract negotns)                             | 2   | 4   | 7   | 21    |
| Eric Embry (push himself)                                   | 1   | 4   | 4   | 15    |
| Greg Gagne (GP)                                             | 1   | 2   | 0   | 7     |
| Colon's WWC (pushing Gonzalez)                              | 2   | 0   | 1   | 7     |
| Zeus (general principles)                                   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Barry Windham (attitude)                                    | 0   | 2   | 2   | 6     |
| Bobby Heenan (USA show)                                     | 0   | 1   | 2   | 5     |
| Ted Turner (GP)                                             | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Hulk Hogan (GP)                                             | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| George Scott (booking)                                      | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Bill Caudill (announcing)                                   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Joel Goodhart (ignoring indies)                             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Ric Flair (GP)                                              | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| World Class (women's violence)                              | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| WWF (for Oakland 2)                                         | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Harvey Cobb (for ron wyatt-co promoted show)                | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Dave Meltzer (withholding info)                             | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Lex Luger (GP)                                              | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Bob Ryan (convention)                                       | ½   | 0   | 0   | 1½    |
| Jon Gallagher (UAWF)                                        | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Pro Wrestling Illus (fake poll)                             | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Kerry Von Erich **                                          | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| WWF (GP)                                                    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Paul E Dangerously (leave NWA)                              | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Chris & Toni Adams (agreeing to take part in spanking skit) | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Terry Funk (GP)                                             | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

\*\*Kerry auctioned off his "personal towel" at a house show. It turned out to be a towel from a local hotel.

### VOTER COMMENTS

Gallagher: I suppose the AWA would like us to feel sorry for them the way the other promotions have just walked over them at will. But when we tried to hire them to come in and do a show for our annual convention, they accepted a \$3000 down payment - then forgot to notify any of their wrestlers. They forgot to notify the state athletic commission. They forgot to book the arena. It's a good thing they don't promote wrestling for a living or they WOULD go out of business. First place goes to the AWA (verne, since he's in charge). Second goes to Jim Herd

for his ability of negotiate contracts. His work on Ricky Steamboat's and Tully Blanchard's in particular is enough to earn him the second spot. Third goes to Eric Embry and the never ending push he gave himself in World Class. Some of the stuff that he did to get himself over went beyond even the limits of good taste that Fritz had set.

DON G. SMITH: Vince McMahon - for his handling of Owen Hart, ofr making laughing stocks and jobbers out of top talent and for acting as though pro wrestling has no history. Since McMahon, it may as well not have any history since it probably has no future

TIM D'ALLAIRD: 1) George Scott - gee, what an innovative booker. 2) Vince McMahon - let's bring in bit actors anf former champions (from his own group) and totally ignore that even the densest fan knows who these people are anyway. 3) Verne Gagne - If "Brody got what he deserved" then Verne better hope that his judgement day never comes.

STEVE YOHE (on his third choice): Barry Windham - gone from being the next NWA champ early in the year to a WWF no show.

MIKE MILLER: 1) Verne Gagne - he should be strung up for what he said about Brody. Remember, Verne - what goes around comes around and when it does, you'll get what you deserve. 2) Bobby Heenan - Mr. "I'm It." His ego is worse than Hogan's. First he tells Bob Costas (on NBC's Later) that Rude was his first champ then pushes a jobber and then makes snide remarks about those kids in Texas. Heenan belongs with Verne. 3) Jim Herd - another idiot who doesn't have one clue on wrestling. Instead of hiring a good booker, he goes out and digs up George Scott. Then the Ding Dongs and the blood ban. He belongs with Verne and Heenan.

RON DOBRATZ: The AWA (Verne) and for many reasons besides their treatment of the UAWF during convention weekend in Chicago (although that would have been enough). Verne has delegated too much authority to employees working against one another. He continues to use the same worn out and stale angles and wrestlers. He has refused to ge good young wrestlers with potential and develop them thru a monthly schedule that would allow them a liveable wage.

# BIGGEST SHOCK DUSTY GOES TO THE WWF

## PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Brody's death  
1987: Bill Watts sells UWF

In comparison to previous years, 1989 was not a great year for memorable shocks. But that didn't stop our readers from coming up with a lengthy list anyway. As with Most Disgusting Event, Brody's murder was such a shock that it made one reader's list two years after it happened.

| SHOCK                                         | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| DUSTY GOES TO WWF (& gets push)               | 19  | 6   | 3   | 72    |
| Hogan pins Zeus at Summerslam                 | 6   | 6   | 4   | 34    |
| Paul E Dangerously fired                      | 3   | 5   | 2   | 21    |
| Brainbusters jump back to NWA                 | 3   | 2   | 2   | 15    |
| decline of the NWA                            | 2   | 2   | 0   | 10    |
| Steamboat leaves NWA                          | 2   | 0   | 3   | 9     |
| Four horsemen split up                        | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Steamboat goes to NWA                         | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Martel turns heel                             | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Pringle's successful turn baby                | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Von Erich limited push                        | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Dusty fired by NWA                            | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Tully/Arn win WWF titles                      | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Luger's improvement                           | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| success of No Holds Barred                    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Gonzales' innocent verdict                    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Cornette turn heel                            | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Hogan pins Savage clean at WM                 | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3     |
| Twin refs angle (from 1988!)                  | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| fact that Jon has read Penthouse              | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Big gates in Japan                            | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Brody's death (1988)                          | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Freebirds win NWA belts                       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Andre continues as heel/no turn               | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Piper's return to WWF                         | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Scott Steiner's progress                      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Lawler keeps belt whole year                  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Jarrett keeps Embry as booker for so long     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Windham goes to WWF                           | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| WWF tries to pass Zeus off as a real wrestler | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Gagne quote in Torch                          | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Don Owen takes back Billy Jack                | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Sting pins Flair at Starrcade                 | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Snuka to WWF as babyface                      | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Rockers not given titles in WWF               | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Flair eliminated in Forum tourny              | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| McMahon admits wrestling fake                 | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| July 4 accident in Calgary                    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Youngblood works in Puerto Rico               | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Flair turns babyface                          | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Zbyszko is AWA champ                          | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Funk returns to feud with Flair               | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Poffo vs Hogan as main event                  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Rude could carry Warrior                      | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

## VOTER COMMENTS:

GALLAGHER: Though we had often said that Dusty, while employed by the NWA, was the WWF's best booker/employee, I never thought we'd see the day when he actually went to work for them, let alone got any kind of a push. Nothing in wrestling really shocks me anymore, but this came close. Second was when Hogan pinned Zeus at Summerslam. They spent all that time building Zeus as superhuman and then destroyed him in less than fifteen minutes. Third goes to Steamboat leaving the NWA. He was happy there and was a company wrestler. He did what ever was asked of him. I'm surprised that Jim Herd let him

slip away, especially considering some of the talent they brought in after he left and what they decided to pay that alleged talent.

TIM D'ALLAIRD: 1) Dusty in the WWF - I think it snowed in Hell that week too.

I. M. : Dusty leaving the NWA...it was a shock to me when it happened. After reading the insider sheets for the 1st time (10/89-11/89) I saw that it really was less of a shock, but still number one in my book.

DON G. SMITH: 1) Percy Pringle's successful turn babyface - I was shocked that such a turn would be attempted since Pringle's every pore exudes "heel." But it happened; and I was equally shocked that it was successful. Actually, I enjoyed following the turn and I developed quite a bit of respect for Pringle's versatility in the process. At the same time, I had trouble buying Pringle as a face and I still do.

JOE MANNION: Zeus getting pinned after being built up to be an invincible monster was certainly an unexpected occurrence. The return of Billy Jack Haynes to work for Don Owen and the Youngbloods returning to Puerto Rico were major surprises based on recent past occurrences.

KAREN SHEHORN: Dusty goes to WWF - I guess it just shows that in wrestling you never say never.

TERESA DEMARIE: 1) No Holds Barred grossing more than \$16 million - Yes, I made the prediction that NHB would never do good box office. Therefore, I made a total fool out of myself. And I thought I knew the movie/wrestling business. Shame on me. Despite a lousy movie, this actually marks McMahon's launch into big time media-and he's bringing Hulkie with him. Blech! I would have figured the chance for world peace would come before I'd see Snuka and Dusty in the WWF. Sort of the same shock as seeing Andre and Warrior work a 20 minute A+ match.

ERIC HOYME: The fact that Paul E Dangerously got fired was no real shock. This guy is outspoken enough that the real surprise come from him not being fired earlier. Judging from how open he was in Memphis to smart fans and sheet editors, it's almost a shock that he was hired in the first place. Oh, but you want my official picks, right? Okay, 1-Dusty to the WWF, 2-Brainbusters jump while holding the WWF titles, and 3\_Hogan pins Zeussy-boy at Summerslam.

# WORST ANNOUNCER

## LORD ALFRED HAYES

37

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Superstar Graham  
1987: David Crockett

Lord Alfred Hayes joins an elite group of horrid broadcasters as he takes this year's award for the worst announcer. A relatively close race with a low winning total, this category was another favorite for those who like to poke fun at those who shove words down our throats each week.

| ANNOUNCER          | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| LORD AL HAYES      | 8   | 10  | 6   | 40    |
| Gorilla Monsoon    | 8   | 8   | 4½  | 36½   |
| Marc Lowrance      | 5   | 4   | 6   | 29    |
| Ed Whalen          | 4   | 3   | 3½  | 21½   |
| Hillbilly Jim      | 3   | 3   | 1   | 16    |
| Vince McMahon      | 1   | 4   | 1   | 12    |
| Gordon Solie       | 3   | 0   | 2   | 11    |
| Frank Dusek        | 2   | 2   | 0   | 10    |
| Greg Gagne         | 1   | 2   | 1   | 8     |
| Lance Russell      | 2   | 1   | 0   | 8     |
| Lee Marshall       | 1   | 1   | 2   | 7     |
| Sean Mooney        | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Bill Mercer        | 1   | 1   | 0   | 5     |
| Kevin Sullivan     | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| David Crockett     | 1   | 0   | 1   | 4     |
| Bill Caudill       | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Ron Trongard       | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Jim Ross           | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Gene Okerlund      | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Bobby Heenan       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Mike McGuirk       | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Verne Gagne        | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Oliver Humperdink  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Paul E Dangerously | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Bob Brown          | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |

### VOTER COMMENTS

Gallagher: The job of an announcer is to help put wrestlers, feuds, angles, etc over to the home audience in addition to calling the action. Ed Whalen is not very good at calling the action and he only puts over what he feels like, not what the booker or Stu Hart wants. To me, that's the classic definition of a bad announcer. You have to wonder what he has on someone to keep his job. Second goes to Greg Gagne, who also is more interested in putting himself over than the stuff going on in the ring. Third is Lord Al Hayes who was a decent wrestler, but has no clue how to put into words

what he's watching. Maybe he isn't watching and that's the problem.

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) Monsoon - he wore thin years ago, but still he comes through with the same act every week. 2) Hillbilly Jim - he never has anything to say, but he says it anyway. 3) Mark Lowrance - the problem is - whatever he said. He's bugged me since he was never aware of what's going on.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I chose Lance Russell because of his decline since joining the NWA. He's very good in a familiar environment, but since he's come to the NWA, he seems to feel he has to hype everything beyond reason. He was at his best when he was laid back. Maybe this coming year he'll change. He started to towards the last of 1989.

TERESA DEMARIE: What perverted mind decided to put Hillbilly Jim in an announcing capacity? He makes watching the generally horrible Madison Square Garden cards an experience on par with having my lumbar spine straightened on a rack. Lord Al Hayes - sometimes he bothers me, sometimes he doesn't. Lately he's been bothering me like a hungry mosquito in a slaughter house. Ed Whalen (3) has been horrible for years and if there was anything I would like to do for wrestling fans, it's stick a fork into Gorilla Monsoon (3-tie) to see if he's really done. The man speaks in Monsoon cliches - I wonder if he'd have anything to say if we removed them from his brain.

ERIC HOYME: Mark Lowrance is the worst thing I've heard this year, this decade, in my life, in my grandmother's life...



# MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER

## LEX LUGER

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1988: Sting  
1987: Bubba Rogers (Bossman)  
1986: Rick Steiner

Our readers have had a knack for picking big stars of the future in our most improved category. This year featured three strong candidates with a runaway winner. No doubt our readers will be four for four on their prognostication of future stardom.

| WRESTLER         | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | TOTAL |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| LEX LUGER        | 23½ | 11  | 4   | 96½   |
| Rick Rude        | 11  | 12  | 6   | 63    |
| Scott Steiner    | 3   | 5   | 7   | 27½   |
| Brian Pillman    | 2   | 4   | 5   | 19    |
| Ultimate Warrior | 3   | 0   | 5   | 14    |
| Great Muta       | 1   | 3   | 2   | 11    |
| Sting            | 1   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Curt Hennig      | 1   | 0   | 2   | 5     |
| Rick Steiner     | 0   | 2   | 0   | 4     |
| Rick Martel      | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Jushin Riger     | 1   | 0   | 0   | 3     |
| Terry Funk       | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Sid Vicious      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Ron Simmons      | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Wayne Bloom      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Bossman          | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Jimmy Snuka      | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Sean Michaels    | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2     |
| Rockers          | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2     |
| Kendall Windham  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Hulk Hogan       | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Midnight Express | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1     |
| Dan Spivey       | 0   | 0   | ½   | ½     |
| Johnny Ace       | 0   | 0   | ½   | ½     |

### VOTER COMMENTS

GALLAGHER: Lex Luger got taught a lesson at Starrcade 88 that he's going to remember a long time. Flair carried him to a match that was the best of his career. Luger had insisted that Flair win with his feet on the ropes so he (Luger) wouldn't have his rep hurt. After the match, in the dressing room, the two shook hands and Luger told Flair that he shouldn't have put his feet on the ropes. From that point on, Luger decided that he was going to work hard at learning the craft of wrestling. His studies paid off. He gets my first place vote. To go back and watch tapes of his matches prior to Starrcade 88 is a tribute to how much he's improved. Rick Rude is second due to his work with Ultimate Warrior. He's always been a solid worker, but this year he had to pull his reserves out to carry a stiff like Warrior. Third goes to Scott Steiner (how bout that, another trifecta). He took rookie of the year last year from a mediocre crop. The variety of moves he's incorporated this past year indicate how he's worked at improving as well.

ERIC HOYME: 1) Rude - A year ago he was content to let his freakish physique get him by. Now, he works, takes bumps, you name it. Since I gauged my picks on improvement over a one year period, Rude is it. 2) Luger - lot's of improvement but only good enough for second. 3) Scott Steiner - is this the same kid who worked Memphis? I wasn't at all impressed with him there. Now... well, I think it goes without saying. I did put him in my top ten for the year, didn't I?

TERESA DEMARIE: Yep, Luger takes it here. Made lots of preat strides when it comes to how to work a match, how to appear charismatic rather than looking and behaving like a piece of cardboard, and how to do an entertaining interview. The turn heel was a Godsend for the boy. Scott Steiner (2) continues to impress. One of the few wrestlers I actually look forward to watching on TV. Has a great amount of agility considering his build, and he knows what he's doing in the ring. An up and coming star in the making. While the Ultimate Warrior (3) is simply bad, he used to be simply beyond horrible, so he's improved at least 50%. Can be carried now by something other than pallbearers. Seems to suck air up one lung instead of two these days.

SEAN HENDRICK: 1) Rick Rude - not only did his work improve, but his "character" has developed further as well. 2) Rick Steiner - great moves...just keeps getting better. 3) Lex Luger - since his heel turn, he has taken off. At this rate, it's no telling how much impact he will have in/on the nineties.

I'M MOST SICK OF...organizations banning blood. While every match shouldn't be a bloodbath, I feel that some angles are designed to be capped off by juice. Think of how much more effective it would be to build up a Luger-Sting feud by having Luger leave Sting laying bloody in the ring after an attack. I just don't feel that a total ban on blood is necessary just as an over abundance of blood is necessary.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...the NWA take its deserved place as the number one promotion...Vince McMahon realizing that his fans do have IQ's...a year of success for the independent promotions...however, the thing I want to see most is Verne Gagne getting what he deserves.

-TIM D'ALLAIRD-

-Troy, NY-

I'M MOST SICK OF...The WWF using their TV shows to hype the next PPV event...Tom Zenk's sleeper...Verne's attitude toward the fans...the WWF's comic book collage...use of steroids.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...the AWA take wrestling seriously, probably means a change in ownership is needed...Bill Watts get involved somewhere.

-DOYLE NORRIS-

-Indianola, IA-

# THE WRESTLING BAROMETER

## by Jeff Siegel

39

Welcome to the 1989 edition of the yearly Barometer, Wrestling Forum's exclusive look at 1989 through a composite Barometer as compiled by our readers. For the purpose of clarifying each entry on to our What's HOT and what's NOT list, we have combined entries that qualified in more than one month. For example, rather than to list three separate entries for the Steiners-Robin Green angle, we combined them into one.

Listed below are the composite points for each entry in order of points achieved in our monthly poll, plus the month in which the entry appeared in the Barometer.

Now, on to the 1989 **WRESTLING BAROMETER:**

### WHAT'S HOT (or was at the time)

**STEINERS-ROBIN GREEN ANGLE - 122 POINTS (AUG, SEPT, & OCT)**

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED NEWSLETTER - 103 POINTS (OCTOBER)

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS/DYNAMIC DUDES FEUD BUILD UP - 86½ POINTS (OCT & NOV)

TULLY & ARN GIVE NOTICE TO THE WWF - 77½ POINTS (OCTOBER)

SPECULATION REGARDING WWF DEFECTIONS - 56 POINTS (OCTOBER)

Terry Funk's interviews - 51 points (June)

Clash IX - 47 points (November)

Terry Funk's farewell performance 42½ points (November)

Turner-McMahon feud - 41½ points (February)

Flair - Funk angle - 41 points (May)

Wrestlewar 89 - 41 points (May)

NWA TV shows - 36½ points (June)

Sting vs Flair at Starrcade 33 points (December)

Elizabeth's bump on 2/3/89 - 31½ points (February)

Ricky Steamboat arrives in the NWA - 31 points (January)

Piper - Rude feud potential - 29½ points (September)

Lex Luger as a heel - 29 points (July)

Sid Vicious' emergence 28½ points (August)

Jim Cornette's resurgence as a heel manager 28½ points (December)

Lance Russell joins the NWA 28 points (March)

Dusty Rhodes departs the NWA - 27 points (January)

George Scott out as NWA booker - 27 points (April)

Terry Gordy in the NWA - 27 points (May)

Flair - Funk hype - 24½ points (July)

Dusty Rhodes in the WWF - 24 points (June)

Zeus' job at Summerslam - 21½ points (September)

Rick Rude's improved ring work - 21 points (July)

UAWF Convention - 21 points (August)

Flair Steamboat 4/2 Clash match - 20½ points (April)

Flair - Steamboat feud - 19 points (February)

Hogan - Savage Wrestlemania speculation - 19 points (March)

potential of Sting - Muta series - 19 points (May)

Elvira Halloween Havoc commercials 19 points (October)

Road Warriors do a job at Starrcade - 19 points (December)

The Oakland 2 - 18 points (September)

Rockers Brainbusters feud - 17½ points (March)

Rebirth of Portland Wrestling 17 points (April)

Hogan-Bossman top of the cage suplex on SNME - 17 points (June)

Brainbusters win WWF titles 17 points (August)

Survivor Series hype - 17 points (November)  
 Starrcade -  $16\frac{1}{2}$  points (January)  
 Roddy Piper's rumored return to wrestling  $16\frac{1}{2}$  points (February)  
 PWA's Wrestling for Shelter -  $16\frac{1}{2}$  points (July)  
 Zeus' future in pro wrestling -  $16\frac{1}{2}$  points (December)  
 NWA Power Hour -  $15\frac{1}{2}$  points (July)  
 Fresh talent in NWA 15 points (January)  
 Sherri Martel's ringside work - 15 points (July)

**WHAT'S NOT  
 (or wasn't)**

**SURVIVOR SERIES HYPE/POTENTIAL - 81 POINTS (OCTOBER)**

NWA FIRING OF PAUL E DANGEROUSLY - 76 POINTS (OCTOBER)  
 FLAIR-FUNK PLASTIC BAG MURDER ANGLE -  $60\frac{1}{2}$  POINTS (OCTOBER)  
 DUSTY RHODES AS THE TIDY BOWL MAN -  $58\frac{1}{2}$  POINTS (JULY)  
 ULTIMATE WARRIOR-ANDRE THE GIANT 10 SECOND MATCHES - 57 POINTS  
 (SEPTEMBER)

Terry Taylor's Red Rooster gimmick - 56 points (March, April)  
 Zeus' push - 56 points (July, October)  
 WWF 2/3/89 Prime Time Special - 50 points (February)  
 "No Holds Barred" the movie - 45 points (June)  
 Hogan - Zeus feud  $41\frac{1}{2}$  points (June)

NWA lets Steamboat get away -  $39\frac{1}{2}$  points (August)  
 Eric Embry's vomiting escapade - 38 points (May)  
 Flair's booking  $36\frac{1}{2}$  points (October)  
 Genius-Mr Perfect affiliation - 34 points (November)  
 Hogan-Savage WM5 finish -  $31\frac{1}{2}$  points (April)  
 Haku-Andre tag team formation -  $31\frac{1}{2}$  points (November)  
 Roddy Piper on Prime Time Wrestling 30 points (August)  
 the Ding Dongs -  $29\frac{1}{2}$  points-- $29\frac{1}{2}$  points (July)  
 The AWA/CWA/WCCW unified title - 29 points (January)  
 Lawler's face/heel/face/heel turns - 29 points (December)  
 AWA no shows UAWF convention - 27 points (August)  
 Oversaturation of Wrestlemania V promotion -  $26\frac{1}{2}$  points (March)  
 Zeus as a contender  $26\frac{1}{2}$  points (May)  
 No Holds Barred pay per view -  $26\frac{1}{2}$  points (December)  
 AWA team concept -  $25\frac{1}{2}$  points (october)  
 John Studd's return to pro wrestling -  $22\frac{1}{2}$  points (February)  
 Sir Oliver Humperdink's arrival in NWA -  $22\frac{1}{2}$  point (November)  
 The Bobby Heenan show -  $22\frac{1}{2}$  points (September)  
 Ultimate Warrior regains IC belt -  $20\frac{1}{2}$  points (September)  
 The Kamasaki Corporation - 20 points (March )  
 NWA-TBS TV screw up - 20 points (September)  
 Steve Lombardi push as Brooklyn Brawler -  $17\frac{1}{2}$  points (January)  
 Total misuse/abuse of Owen Hart/Blue Blazer  $17\frac{1}{2}$  points (February)  
 Doom's future prospects -  $17\frac{1}{2}$  points (December)  
 Breakdancing in NWA -  $16\frac{1}{2}$  points (March)  
 Demolition regains WWF tag titles -  $16\frac{1}{2}$  points (October)  
 the Russian Assassins' gimmick - 16 points (January)  
 Cornette/Midnight Express depart the NWA - 16 points (April)  
 Jim Duggan as WWF King - 16 points (May)  
 Doom's impact on NWA tag team scene  $15\frac{1}{2}$  points (November)  
 NWA TV shows - 15 points (March)  
 Iron Sheik's weights - 15 points (April)

Vince McMahon on the Letterman show - 15 points (June)  
 Brutus Beefcake's renewed push - 15 points (July)

**NOTES:** A good year for Barometer entries...October set a record for number of ballots cast with the Pro Wrestling Illustrated Newsletter taking the top spot and setting a new record for single month points...on the down side for October, the hype for the Survivor Series also made our record books for most number of points attained by a qualifier there....

Taking a look at how the promotions stacked up against each other, the NWA managed to get 27 qualifiers into the HOT side during the year compared with the WWF's 16. Other promotions/events accounted for 5 entries.

On the NOT side, the WWF led the way with 24 qualifiers while the NWA checked in with 16. Once again, other promotions and events took 5 spots on the list.

Our readers were pretty perceptive when it came to arrivals and departures from the main groups. They let the wrestling world know that the arrival of Ricky Steamboat was Hot and the arrival of John Studd was not. Both proved to be accurate. Our readers missed the boat on the arrival of Terry Gordy in to the NWA whose stay lasted about as long as General Noriega's stay in the Vatican Embassy.

On an individual basis, Ric Flair made his presence known on the hot side with mention in five different entries. Terry Funk checked in on the up side four different times.

On the down side, Zeus made the list three times during his short tenure in the business while Ric Flair, named as part of the Kamasaki Corporation, also made the NOT list three times. Hogan and Andre appeared twice, while Dusty, notorious for his appearances in 1988, only showed up once with his tidy bowl skit.

Hype was a topic that brought out the ire of quite a few readers with the big shows' preludes popping up more often than not, on the down side of the ledger.

Two incidents/event/qualifiers made out HOT list that the average wrestling fan wouldn't even be aware of. The first, the Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly newsletter that was born during the last few months of the year and the Oakland 2 incident where two fans were booted from a Titan TV taping for carrying banners that proclaimed the NWA to be number 1.

Thanks one and all for participating in our monthly Barometer. We look forward to another record setting year with your help. If you've yet to participate in a Barometer, just take the things that you've seen over the past month that you believe to be HOT and the things that are NOT, jot them down on a postcard and send them along to:

JEFF SIEGEL  
 P. O. BOX 5461  
 EVANSTON, IL 60204

I'M MOST SICK OF...the lack of creative angles that go into the various plots. The Midnight vs Original Midnight and Andre's fear of snakes were the best of 1989, but if I had my way, that would be average stuff. I wish my full time job was as booker for a major federation.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...the WWF return to the glory days (at least what I feel were the glory days) - Piper's Pit, TNT, Captain Lou as a heel.

-I. M.-  
 -Brooklyn, NY-

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...What ever happened to midget wrestling? Being denied seeing these little fellows do battle is a shame. Not only were they fine athletes, but they brought a comic touch to the sport. Speaking for kids of all ages, I'm asking for the major promotions to return these diminutive warriors to the ring.

-TIMOTHY FORD-  
 -Albany, NY-

The following awards were sent in by our readers. Though some (or all) of them make sense, they remain the 1989 version of Wrestling Forum's **UN-OFFICIAL AWARDS...**

from Doyle Norris of Indianola, IA...

THE CAPTAIN LOU LOOK-ALIKE AWARD - Oliver Humperdink

THE SLEEPER HOLD THAT PUTS THE FANS TO SLEEP - Tom Zenk

from Mark Bennett of Jackson, MI...

THE PLEASE, OH PLEASE GET SOME NEW WRESTLING ATTIRE AND A NEW THEME SONG AND USE YOUR OWN GIMMICK ON YOURSELF AWARD - Brutus Beefcake

THE I'D HATE TO SEE HIS GIRL FRIEND AWARD - tie between Jim Duggan, Bad News Brown and Akeem

THE WHO CARES ABOUT MY OWN BONES AWARD - Terry Funk

THE MY IQ IS HIGHER THAN MY WIN COUNT, OR IS IT (I CAN'T REMEMBER) AWARD - Lanny Poffo

from Mike Miller of Moline, IL...

THE ANNUAL NWA AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORT OF BEACHED WHALES BY A WRESTLING PROMOTION - to the WWF for Andre, Akeem, Bossman, Earthquake, Tugboat, Dusty Rhodes, Jim Duggan and Jim Neidhart

from I. M. of Brooklyn, NY...

AWARD FOR BEST QUOTE - the NEW Tony Atlas - "Don't be sayin' your prayers, don't be eatin' your vitamins. Just take steroids and you can look like me."

from Eric Hoyme of Indianapolis, IN...

JIMMY HOFFA AWARD FOR BEST CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS - Jim Herd

CLAUDE RAINS' INVISIBLE MAN AWARD FOR NO SHOWS - tie...AWA for their appearance at UAWF convention and Barry Windham for his reliability in the WWF.

WORST COMMERCIAL - Terry Funk for his endorsement of Glad Sandwich bags.

HARVEY COMICS AWARD FOR COMBINING LITTLE DOT AND LITTLE LOTTA - Dusty Rhodes

NELSON MANDELLA AWARD - Colonel DeBeers

ANNUAL JOSEPH A BIDEN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLAGIARISM - to the entire CWA for ripping off movie characters and other promotions

MICKEY SPILLANE AWARD FOR MOST PREDICATABLE ENDING - Wrestlemania V

THE HAMILTON BURGER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR WORST JOB OF PROSECUTING A

MURDER CASE - Puerto Rico for work on Jose Gonzales

AL CAPONE NICE GUY AWARD - Lia Miavia

from Pat Rafferty of Baltimore, MD...

HELPING YOUTH AWARD - Art Barr

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIST AWARD - Carl Styles

MOST LIKELY TO DO A LADY BIC COMMERCIAL - Mrs. Carlos Colon

BIGGEST BICEPS/BLUE EYES AWARD - Linda Dallas and Missy Hyatt (tie)

AWARD FOR PUTTING UP WITH MONSOON - Bobby Heenan

NAACP AWARD - George Gray

DON'T GET MAD, GET GLAD AWARD - Ric Flair

BANNER APPRECIATION AWARD - Tony Garea

PUSHING BAD JOBBERS AWARD - Pat Patterson

AWARD FOR MOST BARNEY FRANK JOKES IN ONE YEAR - RODDY PIPER

THE "I MIGHT BE A LUNATIC, BUT I SURE CAN SINGH" AWARD - Mike Shaw

JOHN STOSSEL HUMANITARIAN AWARD - Jake Roberts

the "I HAVE TO GET IN THE BEER LINE WITH THE FANS" AWARD - independent jobbers

the "I THOUGHT THEY WAS TOOTSIE ROLLS" AWARD - Dusty Rhodes

MOST LIKELY TO BUY A CHICKEN RANCH - Terry Taylor

SECOND CAREER AS A GRAPE STOMPER AWARD - Ron Garvin

TRUE MEANING OF WIDE SCREEN TV AWARD - Joe Pedicino

the "I WISH I HAD BAKKER'S MONEY" AWARD - Bruce pritchard  
 WRESTLERS AGAINST INBREEDING AWARD - Jerry Lawler  
 MOST LIKELY TO HAVE A STROKE DURING AN INTERVIEW AWARD - Tiny Zeus  
 Lister  
 TV AS A FORM OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AWARD - The Bobby Heenan show.

# EDITOR AWARDS....

BEST CORRESPONDENT OF 1989 - DAN REILLY, ENFIELD CT  
 BEST NEW BULLETIN - RINGWORMS, ROLLER BABES, WRESTLING SUSHI  
 MOST DETAILED RESULTS - FRED NAARISMA, BALTIMORE, MD  
 MOST DETAILED YEAR END VOTES - TERESA DEMARIE, TUCKAHOE, NY  
 MOST TIME ON THE PHONE - STEVE SIMS, CHICAGO, IL  
 MOST LATE NIGHT PHONE CALLS - MIKE MILLER, QUAD CITIES  
 GRAPHIC ARTIST OF THE YEAR - SEAN HENDRICK, ROCHESTER, NY & DAVE OLBRICH  
 MOORPARK, CA (TIE)  
 LETTER WRITER OF THE YEAR - ERIC HOYME, INDIANPOLIS, IN  
 HEEL LETTER WRITER OF THE YEAR - RANDY MCNEELY, HIGHLAND PARK, IL

and, on the lighter side....

the DID THEY BRING BACK THE VW BUG OR IS THAT SOMEONE GETTING PINNED  
 AWARD - Dusty Rhodes  
 the I DON'T CARE IF HE IS A WRESTLING FAN, I STILL WON'T WATCH HIS  
 SHOW AWARD - Jason Hervey  
 HEY BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A TWENTY AWARD - Blackjack Mulligan & Kendall  
 Windham (tie)  
 THE BERLITZ SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE AWARD - To Boris Zhukov for almost  
 learning the Russian National Anthem  
 MOST ANNOYING COMMERCIAL DURING A WRESTLING BROADCAST AWARD - the  
 Boyz 900 Hotline number  
 the WELFARE AWARD - to the AWA who would rather sit at home than work  
 the GEE, IT DIDN'T GET ANY BETTER WITHOUT THE VON ERICHS AWARD - World  
 Class TV Shows  
 the I'M SORRY, THIS NUMBER IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE AWARD - Paul E.  
 Dangerously for his future with the NWA  
 THE KERRY VON ERICH MEMORIAL FOOT IN MOUTH AWARD - TO VERNE GAGNE  
 for his comments in the Pro Wrestling Torch concerning Bruiser Brody  
 the FELIX AWARD (OPPOSITE OF AN OSCAR) - Hulk Hogan for his stirring  
 performance over Liz on 2/3/89  
 THE JET PLANE IN A WESTERN MOVIE AWARD - to Jesse Ventura for not  
 having a mustache on the 2/3/89 show but having one on the next day's  
 Superstars show when they talked about Randy's turn.  
 the ZORRO AWARD FOR ACCURACY WITH A BLADE - Kerry Von Erich for Superclash III  
 the I'D DO ANYTHING FOR ENOUGH BUCKS AWARD - Terry Taylor  
 the WOULD YOU BUY A USED CAR FROM THIS MAN AWARD - Marc Lowrance  
 AFL-CIO AWARD FOR BEST NEGOTIATOR - Jim Herd

## THE PHANTOM'S ANNUAL PHANNIE AWARDS

Yes, fun lovers, it's once again time for the Phannies, those highly sought after, great-to-have awards, that go to those who do the least with the most and who achieve depths beyond those of normal capability. So here's to the winners: The Phantom sticks his Phannie out to each and every one of you.

**WORST PROMOTION** - Why none other than the WWF. Though they've been the most successful and flashy of the American promotions, no one does it in a worse manner or makes one more embarrassed to be a wrestling fan. They've given us such athletic wonders as Andre the Giant, Dino Bravo, the Ultimate Warrior and the Powers of Pain. I couldn't have thought the Powers would get any worse than they were in the NWA, but the WWF has proved me dead wrong. If it takes talent to be this bad, Vince McMahon is a genius.

**WORST MATCH** - Any entry in the Andre the Giant versus Ultimate Warrior series. Wow, what action. Wow, what wrestling technique. Wow, am I glad their matches don't go more than 60 seconds.

**WORST TELEVISION SHOW** - Prime Time Wrestling. Though it has gotten better as of late (it couldn't get any worse, for God's sake), for most of the year it has subjected us to unrelenting boredom and obnoxiousness. Watching that show was like having a tooth pulled without novocaine.

**WORST SKIT** - Hulk's confrontation with the Macho Man on NBC's Prime Time Special. Ineptly staged and even more ineptly acted, it stood as a testimonial to bad taste everywhere. Ed Wood couldn't have done better himself.

**WORST WRESTLER** - A tie between Dino Bravo and Stan Lane. Bravo is clearly over the hill; so bloated that he can hardly move. Lane went so far downhill this year it was astonishing. Though nowhere near the nadir Bravo set, we clearly expected more of Stan Lane. (Note: Sid Vicious and the Ultimate Warrior do not qualify for this category as they are not really wrestlers.)

**WORST INTERVIEW** - The Ultimate Warrior, who can make Steve Williams sound like William F. Buckley in comparison.

**WORST DEBUTS** - In singles competition, it was Zeus hands down. In tag-team competition, it was none other than the Ding Dongs. May posterity not remember them at all.

**WORST HAIRDO** - Dino Bravo in a close call over Koko B. Ware. Koko's hairdo is specifically designed to humiliate him, whereas Dino may actually believe himself to be the epitome of heel style.

**LEAST HAIRDO** - Hulk Hogan.

**WORST BOOKER** - Eric Embry. If his angles weren't stale, they were disgusting beyond even bad taste.

**WORST EXAMPLE FOR THE KIDDIES** - Art "Betelguese" Barr.

**WORST NEW BOOKING IDEA** - Jim Herd, for his inspiration concerning the creation of the Ding Dongs.

**WORST IMPRESSION OF FOGHORN LEGHORN** - Terry "Red Rooster" Taylor, who also wins the Mountain Rivera award (See Requiem for a Heavyweight). As to the Rooster's gimmick, I can only say this: That's a joke, son! A joke, that is.

**WORST POSSIBLE JAPANESE POLITICAL SCENARIO** - Antonio Inoki becoming Prime Minister. If he handles Japan's dollars like his wrestlers' dollars, Japan will go broke in record time.

**WORST PLUMBER** - Dusty Rhodes.

**WORST PIZZA DELIVERY PERSON** - Dusty Rhodes.

**WORST GAS STATION ATTENDANT** - Dusty Rhodes.

**WORST IMPRESSION OF BENNY HILL IN DRAG** - Dusty Rhodes and his polka-dot suit. Just looking at him in that thing is enough to make me dizzy.

**WORST SELF-INFLICTED BRAIN SURGERY/BEST WAY TO INGRATIATE ONESELF WITH THE BOSS** - Dusty Rhodes and his famous toilet bowl sketch. He reached in and discovered his brains were clogging the toilet. However, he made untold progress in his relationship with McMahon, who (based on his TNT talk chatter, booking angles and No Holds Barred) takes to the brown stuff like a duck to water or iron to a magnet.

**WORST EXPLOITATION OF THE DECEASED** - Verne Gagne and his incessant chatter about the late Bruiser Brody. Not surprisingly, the talk is of a negative nature. Guess Verne is mad at Brody for dying because Brody owed him a living just like the rest of the world.

**WORST ATTEMPT TO FOOL THE PUBLIC** - Verne and his AWA. He gives the impression on the ESPN tapes that the AWA is booming and holding shows everywhere. He would also like us to believe that the ESPN show is indicative that his promotion is major league. Frankly, even listening to Zamfir records beats watching Verne's promotion.

**WORST MONIKER FOR A WRESTLER** - The Soul Taker, who wrestles for Jarrett.

**WORST MONIKER FOR A MANAGER** - Dusty's manager, Sapphire. What touching sensitivity, considering the present strain in relations between the races. The WWF almost never hires an African-American; when they do condescend to hire one, they humiliate him or her at



every opportunity. Witness Koko B. Ware, for instance. Or Slick, who plays the jive-talkin' pimp-like character, managing a white man who is trying to act black (Akeem). What are they trying to tell us?

**WORST MOVIE - No Holds Barred.** (What else?)

**WORST ACTOR IN A MOVIE** - Tie between the Hulkster and Kurt Fuller, who played the Ted Turner parody in No Holds Barred. Hogan's love scenes with Joan Severance had all the warmth, tenderness and reality of a Three Stooges short while Fuller's overacting was so bad that he left teeth marks on the scenery when he was finished. In their scenes together, though, they were sheer comedy, a laff riot deluxe.

**WORST ACTOR IN A TELEVISION SKIT** - None other than Miss Elizabeth, who looked as if she would bust a gut trying to keep a straight face during the Savage-Hogan showdown on the NBC Prime Time Special. More bad comedy from the folks who brought you No Holds Barred.

**WORST POSSIBLE MATCH IN THE UPCOMING YEAR** - Hogan vs. the Ultimate Warrior in WrestleMania VI. It would have to be retitled Meglo-Mania I. How can the Warrior be expected to do a spot? He is a spot. This is a match that will make Zeus vs. Hogan look like Thesz vs. Hutton.

**WORST TAG TEAM** - The Skyscrapers. Oh, the Powers of Pain were atrocious, but Vince split them up for most of the year. Herd and the NWA actually tried to push this team as a threat. Actually, Vicious is so stiff in the ring that he is a threat. Spivey is not bad, but having Sid for a partner could drag anyone down.

**THE FUJI (WORST MANAGER)** - Yes, Mr. Fuji has won this award so many times that it wasn't fair to the competition. So I've named the award in his honor. This year's winner is that delightful bundle of charm and pleasant demeanor, that glib talker and expert make-up artist, Sensational Sherri. The only way I can truly describe her is thus: If Peg Bundy of Married With Children attempted to portray Norma Desmond from Sunset Boulevard, the result would be Sensational Sherri.

**PHANNIE OF THE YEAR** - Hey, for once it isn't Vince winning this thing. No, this year's winner is Dusty Rhodes. The Dustman had quite a year: First, he leaves the NWA when Ted Turner takes over and decides Dusty is as useful as a cement hang glider. Then, he travels to Florida, where he fills the air waves and arenas with some great uninspired wrestling. Having put Florida out of its misery, he teams up with McMahon in the NWA's revenge against the WWF. His bad taste sketches, bizarre outfits, manager angle, and chubby little body all add up to a negative number in this book. And in this book, a negative number is good enough to qualify one for this award. So here's to you, Dustman; considering your toilet sketch, the "Phannie" is quite in keeping with your image.

We have attempted during the past year to keep track of the championship defenses of the AWA, NWA and WWF champions. Listed below are the defenses we were able to come up with on a month by month, day by day basis. The list is not complete, but is as accurate as we could make it. Listed with the title defense is the date, the city, the opponent and the outcome. Title changes are listed in **BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS**. \*\* Indicates a non title defense or other match.

### AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

| JANUARY 1989                         |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| DATE                                 | CITY                 | JERRY LAWLER - CHAMPION<br>OPPONENT                              | OUTCOME                                               |
| 10                                   | Memphis, TN          | Dutch Mantell                                                    | lost via pinfall when<br>ref Ricky Morton turned heel |
| 14                                   | Hammond, IN          | Kerry Von Erich                                                  | won via DQ                                            |
| **16                                 | Memphis              | Rick Morton & Dutch Mantell                                      | Wendall Cooley as partner                             |
| **17                                 | Louisville, KY       | Rick Morton & Dutch Mantell                                      | Wendall Cooley as partner                             |
| 20                                   | MILWAUKEE, WI        | STRIPPED OF TITLE FOR NO SHOWING                                 |                                                       |
| FEBRUARY 1989                        |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 7                                    | ST PAUL, MN          | LARRY ZBYSZKO WON TITLE IN BATTLE ROYAL<br>(eliminated Tom Zenk) |                                                       |
| MARCH 1989                           |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 4                                    | Pittsburgh, PA       | Sgt Slaughter                                                    | lost via DQ                                           |
| APRIL 1989                           |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 13                                   | Prairie Du Chein, WI | Ken Patera                                                       | won via pinfall                                       |
| MAY 1989                             |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 6                                    | Miami, FL            | Mike Graham                                                      | won via DQ                                            |
| 19                                   | Lockport, IL         | Wahoo McDaniel                                                   | won via pinfall                                       |
| 21                                   | Muncie, IN           | Tommy Jammer                                                     | won via pinfall                                       |
| JUNE 1989                            |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 23                                   | Chicago, IL          | Greg Gagne                                                       | 12 minute draw                                        |
| JULY 1989                            |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 8                                    | Rochester, MN        | Sgt. Slaughter                                                   | lost via DQ                                           |
| AUGUST 1989                          |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 6                                    | Hinkly, MN           | Ken Patera                                                       | lost via DQ                                           |
| SEPTEMBER 1989                       |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 2                                    | Clinton, IA          | Baron Von Raschke                                                | lost via DQ                                           |
| OCTOBER 1989                         |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| **28                                 | Minneapolis, MN      | Scott Norton, Tommy Jammer                                       | lost                                                  |
| with Destruction Crew<br>as partners |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 29                                   | Wayne, NJ            | David Sammartino                                                 | won via pinfall                                       |
| NOVEMBER 1989                        |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| **17                                 | Cleveland, OH        | Killer Bees                                                      | Zbyszko pinned                                        |
| with Manny Fernandez                 |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 18                                   | Rochester, MN        | Nikita Koloff                                                    | lost via DQ                                           |
| DECEMBER 1989                        |                      |                                                                  |                                                       |
| 6                                    | Toronto, ONT         | Sgt Slaughter                                                    | lost via DQ                                           |

### NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

| JANUARY 1989 |                       |                       |                                 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
|              |                       | RIC FLAIR - CHAMPION  |                                 |
| 1            | Atlanta, GA           | Sting                 | 30 minute draw                  |
| 2            | Columbus, GA          | Eddie Gilbert         | won via pinfall                 |
| 6            | Philadelphia, PA      | Rick Steiner          | won via pinfall                 |
| 7            | Baltimore, MD         | Sting                 | won via pinfall                 |
| 8            | Greensboro, NC        | Junk Yard Dog         | won via pinfall                 |
| 11           | Seattle, WA           | Sting                 | won via pinfall                 |
| 12           | Portland, OR          | Sting                 | won via pinfall                 |
| 13           | Las Vegas NV          | Sting                 | won via pinfall                 |
| 14           | Oakland, CA           | Sting                 | won via pinfall                 |
| 15           | Dallas, TX            | Rick Steiner          | won via pinfall                 |
| **18         | Atlanta, GA           | Eddie Gilbert & Rick  | lost via pinfall (Flair pinned) |
|              | Barry Windham as part | Steamboat             |                                 |
| 20           | St. Louis, MO         | Junk Yard Dog         | won via pinfall                 |
| 21           | Kansas City, KS       | Junk Yard Dog         | won via pinfall                 |
| 23           | St. Petersburg, FL    | Eddie Gilbert         | won via pinfall                 |
| 27           | Norfolk, VA           | Junk Yard Dog         | won via pinfall                 |
| 28           | Charleston, WV        | Rick Steiner          | won via pinfall                 |
| 30           | Chattanooga, TN       | Michael Hayes & Sting | with Barry Windham as partner   |
|              |                       |                       | Windham pinned by Sting         |
| 31           | Marietta, GA          | Michael Hayes & Sting | with Barry Windham as partner   |

## NWA TITLE DEFENSES

FEBRUARY 1989

## RIC FLAIR - CHAMPION

| DATE | CITY          | OPPONENT                       | OUTCOME                                            |
|------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| **4  | Philadelphia  | Eddie Gilbert & Sting          | with Windham as partner<br>Windham pinned by Sting |
| **8  | Raleigh, NC   | Sting & Eddie Gilbert          | with Windham as partner<br>Windham pinned by Sting |
| **10 | Hampton, VA   | Sting & Eddie Gilbert          | with Windham as partner<br>Windham pinned by Sting |
| **11 | Charlotte, NC | Rick Steamboat & Eddie Gilbert | with Windham as partner-outcome unknown            |
| 12   | Atlanta, GA   | Sting                          | won via pinfall                                    |
| **13 |               | Sting & Eddie Gilbert          | with Windham as partner<br>Windham pinned by Sting |
| 20   | CHICAGO, IL   | RICKY STEAMBOAT                | LOST TITLE BY PINFALL                              |

## STEAMBOAT TITLE DEFENSES

|      |                                    |                           |                                                           |
|------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| **23 | Baltimore, MD<br>elimination match | Ric Flair & Barry Windham | with Gilbert as partner<br>pinned both Windham then Flair |
|------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

## MARCH 1989

|     |                    |                            |                                                   |
|-----|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| **2 | Kameoka City Japan | Tiger Mask & Shunji Takano | Johnny Smith as partner<br>lost when Smith pinned |
| 3   | Hamamatsu Japan    | Shunji Takano              | won via pinfall                                   |
| 4   | Fuji Japan         | Shunji Takano              | won via pinfall                                   |
| 8   | Tokyo Japan        | Tiger Mask                 | won via pinfall                                   |
| 11  | Greensboro, NC     | Ric Flair                  | won via pinfall                                   |
| 12  | Atlanta, GA        | Ric Flair                  | won via pinfall                                   |
| 18  | Landover, MD       | Ric Flair                  | won via pinfall                                   |
| 18  | Philadelphia PA    | Ric Flair                  | won via pinfall                                   |
| 19  | Salisbury, MD      | Ric Flair                  | won via pinfall                                   |
| 23  | Raliegh, NC        | Ric Flair                  | won via pinfall                                   |
| 26  | Columbus, OH       | Ric Flair                  | won via pinfall                                   |
| 31  | Baltimore, MD      | Ric Flair                  | won via pinfall                                   |

## APRIL 1989

|      |                     |                           |                                                                                          |
|------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2    | New Orleans         | Ric Flair                 | 2 of 3 falls - lost 1st via<br>pin, won 2nd via submission,<br>won 3rd via disputed pin. |
| 4    | West Palm Beach, FL | Mike Rotundo              | won via pinfall                                                                          |
| 8    | New Haven, CT       | Ric Flair                 | won via pinfall                                                                          |
| **9  | Atlanta, GA         | Ric Flair & Michael Hayes | with Lex Luger as partner<br>pinned by Flair                                             |
| **15 | Chicago             | Ric Flair & Michael Hayes | with Lex Luger as partner<br>Luger pinned by Hayes                                       |
| 19   | Little Rock, AR     |                           |                                                                                          |
| 20   | Memphis, TN         | Ric Flair                 | won via pinfall                                                                          |
| 22   | St Louis, MO        | Ric Flair                 | won via pinfall                                                                          |
| **23 | Columbus, OH        | Ric Flair & Michael Hayes | with Lex Luger as partner<br>won-Steambaoat pinned Flair                                 |
| 30   | Philadelphia, PA    | Iron Sheik                | won via pinfall                                                                          |

## MAY 1989

|   |               |           |                        |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 7 | NASHVILLE, TN | RIC FLAIR | LOST TITLE VIA PINFALL |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------------|

(NOTE: Flair did not wrestle again until 7/23)

## JULY 1989

|    |               |            |                 |
|----|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| 23 | Baltimore, MD | Terry Funk | won via pinfall |
|----|---------------|------------|-----------------|

## AUGUST 1989

|    |                  |                |                          |
|----|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 4  | Kansas City, KS  |                |                          |
| 5  | St Louis, MO     | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 6  | Atlanta, GA      | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 11 | Pittsburgh, PA   | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 14 | Charleston, WV   | Cuban Assassin | won TV Squash by pinfall |
|    |                  | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 15 | Cleveland, OH    | Brad Armstrong | won via pinfall-TV       |
|    |                  | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 17 | Norfolk, VA      | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 18 | Greensboro, NC   | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 19 | Philadelphia, PA | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 20 | Chicago, IL      | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 22 | Greenville, SC   |                |                          |
| 23 | Bluefield, WV    | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 24 | Raliegh, NC      | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 25 | Baltimore, MD    | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 26 | Philadelphia     | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |
| 27 | New Haven, CT    | Terry Funk     | won via pinfall          |

## SEPTEMBER 1989

NWA TITLE DEFENSES  
SEPTEMBER 1989  
RIC FLAIR - CHAMPION

| DATE CITY         | OPPONENT                 | OUTCOME                             |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Monroe, LA      | Terry Funk               | won via pinfall                     |
| 3 Atlanta, GA     | Terry Funk               | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| 4 Nashville, TN   | Terry Funk               | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| 6 Alexandria, LA  | Terry Funk               | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| 8 Memphis, TN     | Dick Slater              | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| 9 Landover, MD    | Dick Slater              | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| 10 Greensboro, NC | Dick Slater              | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| **12 Columbia, SC | Dick Slater & Great Muta | with Sting as partner<br>won via DQ |
| 15 St Louis       | Dick Slater              | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| 16 Kansas City    | Dick Slater              | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| 17 Chicago        | Dick Slater              | won via pinfall, Texas Death        |
| 27 Worcester, MA  | Terry Funk               | won via pinfall                     |
| 28 Troy, NY       | Terry Funk               | won via pinfall                     |
| 29 Rochester, NY  | Terry Funk               | won via pinfall                     |
| 30 Buffalo        | Terry Funk               | won via pinfall                     |

OCTOBER 1989

|                      |                         |                                                |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Rochester, NY      | Terry Funk              | won via pinfall                                |
| 6 Norfolk, VA        | Terry Funk              | won via pinfall Texas Death                    |
| 7 Pittsburgh, PA     | Terry Funk              | won via pinfall Texas Death                    |
| 8 Atlanta, GA        | Terry Funk              | won I quit match                               |
| 9 West Palm Beach FL | Terry Funk              | won via pinfall                                |
| 10 Orlando, FL       | Terry Funk              | won via pinfall                                |
| 14 Baltimore, MD     | Great Muta              | won via DQ                                     |
| 15 Greensboro, NC    | Great Muta              | Won via DQ                                     |
| **20 Washington DC   | Terry Funk & Great Muta | with Sting as Partner<br>won via DQ            |
| 22 Rockford, IL      | Terry Funk              | won via pin                                    |
| Chicago, IL          | Terry Funk              | won via pinfall (cage)                         |
| 27 Richmond, VA      | Terry Funk              | won via pinfall                                |
| **28 Philadelphia    | Terry Funk & Great Muta | with Sting as partner<br>won thunderdome match |

NOVEMBER 1989

|                  |             |                  |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 2 Norfolk, VA    | Terry Funk  | won via pinfall  |
| 4 Springfield MO |             |                  |
| 12 Amarillo, TX  |             |                  |
| 15 Troy, NY      | Terry Funk  | won I Quit match |
| 16 Atlanta, GA   | Great Muta  | won via DQ       |
| 18 St. Louis     | Great Muta  | won via DQ       |
| 19 Pittsburgh    | Great Muta  | won via DQ       |
| 20 Columbus, OH  | Bobby Eaton | won via DQ       |
| 21 Raleigh, NC   | Great Muta  | won via DQ       |
| 24 Atlanta, GA   | Great Muta  | won via DQ       |
| 25 Philadelphia  | Great Muta  | won via DQ       |
| Baltimore, MD    | Great Muta  | won via DQ       |
| 26 New Haven CT  | Great Muta  | won via DQ       |

DECEMBER 1989

|                   |               |                  |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 Memphis         | Great Muta    | won via DQ       |
| 7 Buffalo, NY     | Great Muta    | won via DQ       |
| 8 Norfolk, VA     | Great Muta    | won via DQ       |
| 9 Washington DC   | Great Muta    | won via DQ       |
| 10 Greensboro, NC | Great Muta    | won via DQ       |
| **13 Atlanta, GA  | Great Muta    | won via pinfall  |
|                   | Lex Luger     | won via COR      |
|                   | Sting         | lost via pinfall |
| 14 Peoria, IL     | Eddie Gilbert | won via pinfall  |
|                   | Bobby Eaton   | won via pinfall  |
| 15 St Louis       | Lex Luger     | won via pinfall  |
| 16 Detroit, MI    | Lex Luger     | won via pinfall  |
| 25 Charlotte, NC  | Lex Luger     | won via pinfall  |
| 26 Knoxville, TN  | Lex Luger     | won via pinfall  |
| 27 Philadelphia   | Lex Luger     | won via pinfall  |
| 28 Baltimore, MD  | Lex Luger     | won via DQ       |
| 29 Richmond, VA   | Lex Luger     | won via DQ       |
| 30 Greensboro, NC | Lex Luger     | won via DQ       |

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION  
JANUARY 1990  
RANDY SAVAGE - CHAMPION

|                       |                |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 West Palm Beach, FL | Bad News Brown | won via pinfall            |
| 4 Huntsville, AL      | Akeem          | won via DQ (TV match)      |
| 14 Philadelphia, PA   | Bad News Brown | won via pinfall            |
| **15 Houston, TX      | ROYAL RUMBLE   | eliminated by Hogan        |
| **16 Hamilton, ONT    | Bad News Brown | won non title street fight |
| 23 Salt Lake City     | Bad News Brown | won via pinfall            |

## WWF TITLE DEFENSES

FEBRUARY 1989

## RANDY SAVAGE - CHAMPION

| DATE                      | CITY                | OPPONENT            | OUTCOME                                                                |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **3                       | Milwaukee, WI       | Twin Towers         | with Hogan as partner-Savage turns heel<br>won when Hogan pinned Akeem |
| 4                         | Richfield, OH       | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 5                         | Toledo, OH          | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 6                         | Grand Rapids MI     | Akeem               | won via COR                                                            |
| 10                        | Halifax, NS         | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 11                        | Boston, MA          | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 12                        | Utica, NY           | Ultimate Warrior    | won Via COR                                                            |
| 13                        | Buffalo, NY         | Ultimate Warrior    | won Via COR                                                            |
| 15                        | Birmingham, NY      | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 16                        | Hershey, PA         | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| **17                      | St. Louis, MO       | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall-street fight                                           |
| **18                      | Chicago, IL         | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall-street fight                                           |
| **19                      | Bloomington, MN     | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall-street fight                                           |
| 20                        | New York, NY        | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| **24                      | Seattle, WA         | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall-street fight                                           |
| **27                      | Winnipeg, MB        | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall                                                        |
| MARCH 1989                |                     |                     |                                                                        |
| 6                         | Albuquerque, NM     | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 9                         | Sacramento, CA      | Bad News Brown      | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 10                        | San Francisco, CA   | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 11                        | San Diego, CA       | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 16                        | Wheeling, WV        | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 17                        | Chicago, IL         | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 19                        | Auburn Hills, MI    | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 23                        | Salt Lake City      | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| 25                        | San Antonio TX      | Ultimate Warrior    | won via COR                                                            |
| APRIL 1989                |                     |                     |                                                                        |
| 2                         | ATLANTIC CITY, NJ   | HULK HOGAN          | LOST TITLE VIA PINFALL                                                 |
| HULK HOGAN TITLE DEFENSES |                     |                     |                                                                        |
| 22                        | Philadelphia, PA    | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| 24                        | New York, NY        | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| 25                        | Des Moines, IA      | Bossman             | won cage match                                                         |
| 26                        | Omaha, NE           | Bossman             | won cage match                                                         |
| MAY 1989                  |                     |                     |                                                                        |
| 19                        | Chicago, IL         | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 20                        | Philadelphia, PA    | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 28                        | Edmonton, AB        | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| JUNE 1989                 |                     |                     |                                                                        |
| 16                        | Los Angeles, CA     | Randy Savage        | wo via pinfall                                                         |
| 17                        | Oakland, CA         | Randy Savage        |                                                                        |
| 18                        | Sacramento, CA      | Randy Savage        |                                                                        |
| 19                        | Phoenix, AZ         | Randy Savage        |                                                                        |
| 22                        | Hartford, CT        | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| 23                        | Bloomington, MN     | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 24                        | Auburn Hills, MI    | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 25                        | Cleveland, OH       | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 27                        | NIagra Falls        | Randy Savage        |                                                                        |
| JULY 1989                 |                     |                     |                                                                        |
| 6                         | Spokane, WA         | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 8                         | Edmonton, AB        | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 14                        | Baltimore, MD       | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| AUGUST 1989               |                     |                     |                                                                        |
| 4                         | Memphis, TN         | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| 5                         | Salt Lake City, UT  | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| 8                         | Oakland, CA         | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| 9                         | Fresno, CA          | Randy Savage        | lost via COR                                                           |
| 21                        | Binghamton, NY      | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 28                        | East Rutherford, NJ | Randy Savage & Zeus | with Brutus Beefcake as partner<br>Hogan pinned Zeus                   |
| 29                        | Springfield, MA     | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 30                        | Portland, ME        | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| SEPTEMBER 1989            |                     |                     |                                                                        |
| 10                        | Washington, DC      | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 11                        | Winston-Salem, NC   | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 15                        | Los Angeles, CA     | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 16                        | Chicago, IL         | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 17                        | Toronto, ONT        | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 23                        | Auburn Hills, MI    | Randy Savage        | won cage match                                                         |
| 24                        | Montreal, ONT       | Randy Savage        | won via pinfall                                                        |
| 29                        | Milwaukee, WI       | Randy Savage        | won cage match                                                         |
| 30                        | St Louis, MO        | Randy Savage        | won cage match                                                         |

**WWF TITLE DEFENSES  
OCTOBER 1989**

51

| DATE                 | CITY             | OPPONENT        | OUTCOME                                              |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2                    | Wheeling, WV     | Randy Savage    | won cage match                                       |
| 3                    | Toledo, OH       | Randy Savage    | won via pinfall                                      |
| 6                    | Miami, FL        | Randy Savage    | won via pinfall                                      |
| 10                   | London, England  | Randy Savage    | won via pinfall                                      |
| 13                   | Paris, France    | Randy Savage    | won via pinfall                                      |
| 20                   | Uniondale, NY    | Bad News Brown  | won via pinfall                                      |
| 22                   | Orlando, FL      | Bad News Brown  | won via pinfall                                      |
| 31                   | Topeka, KS       | Lanny Poffo     | lost via COR                                         |
| <b>NOVEMBER 1989</b> |                  |                 |                                                      |
| 12                   | Borfolk, VA      | Bad News Brown  | won via pinfall                                      |
| 13                   | Roanoke, VA      | Bad News Brown  | won via pinfall                                      |
| 21                   | Indianapolis, IN | Curt Hennig     | won via DQ                                           |
| 22                   | St. Paul, MN     | Curt Hennig     | lost via COR                                         |
| 23                   | Chicago, IL      | Survivor Series | was sole survivor over Zeus, Powers of Pain, Dibiase |
| <b>DECEMBER 1989</b> |                  |                 |                                                      |
| 1                    | Austin, TX       | Curt Hennig     | won via pinfall                                      |
| 2                    | San Antonio, TX  | Curt Hennig     | won via pinfall                                      |
| 3                    | Little Rock AR   | Curt Hennig     | won via pinfall                                      |
| 8                    | Uniondale, NY    | Curt Hennig     | lost via COR                                         |
| 9                    | Springfield, MA  | Curt Hennig     | lost via COR                                         |
|                      | Boston, MA       | Curt Hennig     | lost via COR                                         |
| 15                   | Montreal         | Curt Hennig     | lost via COR                                         |
| 26                   | San Francisco    | Curt Hennig     | lost via COR                                         |
|                      | Sacramento, CA   | Curt Hennig     | lost via COR                                         |
| 27                   | Los Angeles, CA  | Curt Hennig     | lost via COR                                         |
| 28                   | Bloomington, MN  | Curt Hennig     | lost via DQ                                          |

| WRESTLER        | COMPOSITE OF TITLE DEFENSES |            |             |               |                 |            |             |                 |      |                |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|------|----------------|
|                 | WINS<br>pinfall             | WINS<br>DQ | WINS<br>COR | TOTAL<br>WINS | LOSS<br>pinfall | LOSS<br>DQ | LOSS<br>COR | LOSSES<br>TOTAL | DRAW | TAG<br>MATCHES |
| JERRY LAWLER    | 0                           | 1          | 0           | 1             | 1               | 0          | 0           | 1               | 0    | 2              |
| LARRY ZBYSZKO   | 4                           | 1          | 0           | 5             | 0               | 6          | 0           | 6               | 1    | 2              |
| RIC FLAIR       | 65                          | 19         | 1           | 85            | 2               | 0          | 0           | 2               | 1    | 11             |
| RICKY STEAMBOAT | 17                          | 0          | 0           | 17            | 1               | 0          | 0           | 1               | 0    | 5              |
| RANDY SAVAGE    | 13                          | 1          | 15          | 29            | 1               | 0          | 0           | 1               | 0    | 1              |
| HULK HOGAN      | 36                          | 2          | 0           | 38            | 0               | 1          | 19          | 20              | 0    | 2              |

| WRESTLER      | TOTAL COMPOSITE |    |      |      |                               | TOTAL MATCHES ON RECORD |
|---------------|-----------------|----|------|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
|               | W               | L  | Draw | PCT  |                               |                         |
| Randy Savage  | 29              | 1  | 0    | .967 | 31 (including 1 tag match)    |                         |
| Ric Flair     | 85              | 2  | 1    | .966 | 98 (including 11 tag matches) |                         |
| Ric Steamboat | 17              | 1  | 0    | .944 | 23 (including 5 tag matches)  |                         |
| Hulk Hogan    | 38              | 20 | 0    | .655 | 60 (including 2 tag matches)  |                         |
| Jerry Lawler  | 1               | 1  | 0    | .500 | 4 (including 2 tag matches)   |                         |
| Larry Zbyszko | 5               | 6  | 1    | .416 | 13 (including 2 tag matches)  |                         |

Wins included in pinfall victories are wins by pinfall, in cage matches and wins by submission. Results of tag matches are not included in the records above. The figures above are for only those matches we have accounted for and while the wrestler was champion.

EDITOR'S NOTES: This article was sent in by one of our readers. I have changed or deleted some of the references to towns to protect his identity along with the names of the wrestlers he worked with. This should give you an insight into the business that is rarely seen by ordinary people like us. Naturally, his identity will remain anonymous.

Sometimes I feel guilty. I sit at home a lot and watch TV. My wife has a good job and she for the most part supports myself and our child. She understands, somehow, about my chosen profession, if you can call it that. Let me explain how I got into this crazy sport in the first place.

In high school I was a pretty decent basketball and football player. I started from my sophomore year in both sports. I made all conference in both sports as well, and I had a couple of colleges recruit me. But I wasn't quite good enough to make their teams. I wasn't quite good enough academically for a scholarship either, so I dropped out of college after just a semester because of lack of funds.

I got a regular job that paid decently and married a girl I had met in college. It was during that job that I met a wrestler. I asked a lot of questions and since I was over six foot and weighed about 220, he said I should check into a school. My wife and I talked about it for quite a while after we checked into the school. I was working to put her through college and money wasn't going very far. But then again, the three grand it was going to take to get me into the wrestling school wasn't going to help either. We managed to put it together though after the instructor/owner made all sorts of promises to both me and my wife.

Among those promises were that I would land a job regularly at night within a certain mileage radius of my home so I could keep my day job. I could expect to be making at least an extra \$500 a week and "with my natural athletic ability" as he termed it, I could probably get a big break within my first six months. My wife said go for it and we parted with that precious three thousand dollars.

A year went by. In that first year, I had had a total of twenty three professional matches. Every single one of those matches took place at least sixty miles from home and one of them was over 200 miles away. I took home checks totaling \$517.50 for all my trouble. Out of that money, I had to pay all my own expenses in getting to and from the matches including one hotel bill for that long trip. In fact, the hotel bill was \$45 and my payoff for that night was \$40.

Why? Why would any rational human being agree to getting paid forty lousy bucks when he had to spend \$45 to sleep? Two reasons. First, my ride for the night got drunk and couldn't find his car keys, and the promoter kept telling me that all I had to do was make good impressions and I'd get full time work. Those promises kept me going. I believed, as did my wife that working for a few minutes each night and getting paid handsomely for it was better than slaving away at a regular job for eight to ten hours a day.

It was about four months after that when I lost my job. No big deal and it had nothing to do with my wrestling moonlighting. The company just had a massive layoff.

I went back to my instructor (by then I had graduated) and asked for help. When our school put on a show locally, I got paid between ten and fifteen dollars. They used the old "get some experience" line to get us to work so cheap. The instructor told me that when I signed up that I knew there were no guarantees with the business. In other words, when push came to shove, this guy turned into the coldest S.O.B. you'd ever want to run into.

The next three or four months were pretty lean. We had our car repossessed (it was nine years old anyway) and I found work at a department store unloading trucks part time. My wife landed a job in her chosen profession just in time. We found out she was pregnant. I continued to work a few spot cards for some independents for extra money. The next year was better as I wrestled forty-one times and made almost \$1200 doing it.

One of these shows that I did had some TV cameras present and I found out they had taped the card for TV. I finally was able to arrange to have a tape of myself (that had been promised in school but naturally never came about). We spent some more money, got copies and I sent that along with a resume to the AWA, NWA, WWF, Memphis, World Class, and Continental, along with a couple of larger independents.

The WWF and World Class never responded. Gagne called and said he could use me as a TV jobber PROVIDING I could get to Las Vegas. He told me the pay for my efforts there (losing twice) would be the grand total of \$60. He made the smart ass comment that I could use that money to play the slots and stuff and maybe I could go home rich. That's when I decided that I would never work for the AWA.

One of Crockett's guys called and said that they could use me as a TV jobber as well. The pay wasn't half bad for a once a week trip to Atlanta, but getting there was. They ended up saying that if they ever taped in my area, they would give me a call. They made good on their promise (about five months later) and every time they come to this area, I still get a call to work the undercard. The pay is good for what they want me to do.

Memphis called too. They gave me a tryout and I made the trip to Memphis. I worked a TV taping on Saturday morning and a spot show on Sunday. They made me an offer, but not enough of one to get us to pack up and move (especially with a wife who was very pregnant - she had insurance to take care of the birth too) and find her a new job. Continental wrote back and said "Thanks, but no thanks." The letter was nice, but that was the gist of what they said.

The Memphis tape gave me some more ammunition. We decided that we would wait for the baby to be born before we did much more. After the baby arrived, I sent out tapes again, mainly to anyone we missed the first time (Portland, Calgary, The WWF again and some more independents). I got work for an independent on a steady part time basis. I was working about twice a week. Problem was, I was laid off again. Seventy five bucks a week doesn't go far.

Then out of the blue, about six months later, I got a call from the Fed (WWF). They were going to do a TV taping in our general area and needed some TV jobbers. I jumped at the chance. After talking to them I found out that not only our area (the TV tapings were being done 200 miles and about 325 miles from here) but they also had two spot shows set in the same general area over the next week. I agreed to work for them for four shows. Tuesday, Wednesday, then Friday and Sunday. I would be on the "C" or "D" team for the spot shows. Pay? Work two matches on the tapes and two more on the weekend and the total pay was going to be \$400. Plus, they would pay for lodging and some of the travel.

I got to the arena in the first town on Tuesday night about three hours early. They wouldn't let me in. I waited for what seemed like an eternity. I smoked about a pack of cigarettes. Finally, an hour before the card, I went back and tried to get in again. It seemed that the security guard wouldn't let me in because he didn't recognize me. I had been told to get hold of Tony Garea when I got there so I told the guard that. He disappeared behind the door and came back a few minutes later and said Tony wasn't there and no one else had heard of me. As we argued, Tony came up behind the guard. It turned out that he hadn't even gone to look for Tony. That was just the standard procedure



for anyone trying to get in that way. I went to the locker room and Tony checked a few things on a list. He told me I'd be working in the first hour of the tapings and in the third hour in a tag team. The instructions were short. The first match was to go no longer than 1:20 and I was to just sell my ass off. In the second match, I got to start the match, but my partner got the honors.

I stood there in amazement watching the "stars" as they got taped up and told war stories. With three teams working the country, this was almost a mini convention. I had hurt my ankle a couple of weeks back and I asked if I could get it taped. I was told that they had just enough tape to go around to THEIR guys and I would just have to make due. One of the suits told me, "You ain't gonna be in the ring long enough to worry about hurting your ankle anyway."

I walked up to the guy I was to do the job for in the first hour. He didn't want to talk. He was either stoned or drunk or both. He could formulate a full sentence if his life depended on it. I found out later that they had spent the afternoon taping TV interviews and he was talked out and on stimulants. I asked if there was anything special he wanted me to do. He scowled at me and said, "Go with the flow kid. Lay down at the finish. We'll just ad lib til then."

My first opponent was a maniac. He didn't think a minute and twenty seconds was long enough to work. So he attacked me before the bell. Beat the snot out of me. He worked very tight and called the whole thing as we went. We ended up going 1:47 or something and I got a chewing out when I got backstage. My fault for not laying down fast enough. I tried to explain that I was going along with what was happening to me, but the pencil (booker) walked off while I was in the middle of my explanation.

I had a sandwich back there and found my partner for the tag match. He had worked for them before and he told me that it was best that we just not make any waves. They use guys again who don't complain. We worked out our strategy for the match (we would be working as heels in this match) and figured out that I would beat up the guy first, then tag out, then tag in, then out before the faces made their comeback.

Unfortunately, our opponents had other ideas. I got worked over pretty good again before making the tag. My partner wanted to tag out again, but our time limit was just about up for this match, and they finally beat him. Meanwhile, I could feel my ankle swelling.

The Fed put us up in a nice hotel for the night. Since I had driven myself, they told me to be in the next town and ready to work by 7:00. They put me up with a roommate and we spent the night exchanging stories and drinking beer.

The next night went similarly. Both nights there were arena rats hanging around the arena afterwards and the hotel we were staying at. They wouldn't give me or my roommate the time of day. I wasn't interested because I truly love my wife and I don't need to explain to her some strange disease I picked up along the way. But about an hour after we got back to our room, a couple of rats from the lobby called to offer us a message. Seems they had run out of stars and were willing to make it with the jobber corps now.

I was offered during my stay a variety of things. I was taken aside by one of the stars and told that he could get me enough steroids to allow me to work regularly. I said thanks, but no. I never took them to begin with and if I can't get work without them, I won't get work. Coke was available through the rats as was pot. Again, I stayed away.

I found there must be another way to get regular work. I saw one of the newer guys coming out of one of the bookers' room about 5:00 am. Now I'm not saying anything or making assumptions about how long he'd been in there or what they were doing, but this guy ended up with a little push.

Friday night I got to do a job for another star. This time, however, I got to show a little offense. They told me that they wanted the match to go about eight minutes and this time I played the heel. I talked with my opponent for about half an hour before the match just to get things down. There were a few standard things that had to be done including a routine where I pull his trunks to get out of a side headlock, but the ref never catches it. Sure, it's old stuff, but then again we were the second match on the card. It didn't call for high spots one after another. In fact, after thinking about it, there were only a couple of spots during the match with the rest just chain wrestling.

I learned a lot from that match. My opponent went easy on me even though I slipped a couple of times and potatoed him with a couple of kicks and punches. They say guys in the Fed don't work. Let me tell you, I worked harder in that match than any other I had had in the previous three years or so.

The pencil was waiting in the door of the locker room when I got back. He had to ask my name again. He patted my rear end and said, "See you Sunday." No "thanks" no "good job" no nothing.

My roommate (we had decided to share transportation costs since we were both done Sunday and basically working the same towns) and I decided to drive on to the two Saturday shows scheduled. He was working the afternoon show, but not the evening show. I got into the show for free, but they wouldn't let me backstage. It was nothing special.

The surprise came Sunday night. We had a whole three hundred people in the house, if that. The pencil came up and said they had had a problem and were rearranging the card a little. There were some guys who had some problems getting there on time so he wanted me to work the opening match against my roommate. He said he needed a fifteen minute Broadway to allow other wrestlers to get there.

My roommate and I worked what had to be the worst match in the history of that high school gym and maybe even the whole state. What crowd there was started chanting "BO-RING" almost at the beginning. The ref told us at 15:00 that they needed us to go another few minutes. I worked as the face, though at this point the crowd was booing both of us equally. They just wanted the match to end. We ended up going about 18:00 before they rang the bell.

I guess I must not have impressed them. I wish this story had a happy ending, or at least a Cinderella ending, but it doesn't. I haven't worked for the Fed since. My roommate has and works for them once a month at least. I was told they would be calling, but it's been about seven months now, and nothing.

This does have a happy ending of sorts. I have added plenty to my audition tape and I now work semi regularly for a good independent. I work two or three nights a week for a payoff in the \$125 per week range) as a midlevel heel. We've got some TV and look to have some more before long (not Windy City). The money I make is going for three things: Pay bills, my kid's education, and my education. I know since I won't go on the chemicals, I'll never be a big star. I know I had better learn a trade of some sort and that's exactly what I'm doing.

I still love to wrestle. I want to improve. But I'm going to do it on my terms. I'm glad I had the opportunity to work for the Fed for almost a week and I'm glad my wife understands. I hope you have a better insight into what we go through too.

Editor's notes again: What'd you think? Any questions? This wrestler has agreed to answer questions here in the Forum from time to time so if you want something answered, send it in and we'll pass it along.

## WEEK WITH THE FED PART II

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A few months after publishing the preceeding article, our jobber friend called to tell us he'd been offered a job with Titan. He agreed to do another article and we're proud to present it exclusively for the 1989 yearbook.

I remember exactly when the call came in. It was a Monday night and I was busy watching Prime Time Wrestling, wondering if I would ever get a chance with the Fed again.

It had been over a year since I had worked for them as a jobber for a week, and I had begun to think they hadn't liked my work.

The caller identified himself and asked if I would be available in about two to three weeks. They were going to do another set of TV tapes in my area and would like for me to work again.

I said "Sure," trying to contain my excitement, and asked about the pay. He told me I'd get between \$130-150 for the two nights work plus expenses (hotel, travel).

When I showed up at the arena, I was let right in, unlike my first experience. Some of the Fed wrestlers remembered me from the last time, even though that had been more than a year ago. The guy who was spaced out and nearly killed me during my first job didn't even remember me when I re-introduced myself to him.

One thing that was a little frightening. One of the agents mentioned in passing that a story had appeared in a Kay Fabe sheet about a jobber working for them. The agent said he thought that it came from this town, but he wasn't sure.

I told him I hadn't heard of it, and he said that if he ever found out who it was that wrote it, he'd make sure their match never aired on TV because he'd have somebody like Bad News Brown or Bret Hart rough them up a little. I took it from that that he knew I was the culprit and I was trying to find a graceful way of getting out of working.

Later, one of the boys told me that the suits had been saying that in just about every town they go to in hopes of finding out who the guy was. I never told him I was the one. I did ask if he thought they would really rough the guy up if they found him and was told that the suit was more or less just trying to find out who wrote the story out of personal curiosity. If they found out, probably nothing more would happen to the guy than just never being asked to work for them again.

Probably. I didn't like that word.

The routine hadn't changed much since the first time around. We were told who we would be working with (one match the first night) and how long we were expected to go. We were to work out the finish with the star, doing what ever it took to put him over.

My assignment was with a heel, which meant that I had to work as a baby in the match. I hated that. These TV tapings were the only times I ever had to work as a baby, even back in my little indy promotion. The match was a little less structured than the first time. They told me to go between 2:00 and 2:20.

The heel I worked with was the best experience of my life. He was able to show me a couple of things back in the dressing room that no one had bothered to before. The match itself was the best work I've ever done and it's all because of him. As soon as my match was over, I got dressed and ready to head back to the hotel.

One of the agents walked up to me and told me he'd like to speak to me later on and asked if I would be willing to come up to his room.

I'd read the sheets and heard all the stories. As I was hesitating, trying to come up with some sort of excuse, he said, "ah, Hell, why don't you just meet me in the lounge after the show. I wanna get something to eat anyway."

Whew!

Just as I was getting ready to leave, Mr. Prima Donna himself walked in - Hulk Hogan. I had met him at the previous taping and he wasn't very hospitable. He still didn't remember me this time around, but he was nicer than the first time. The only thing was, I asked him about an upcoming angle and he treated me like a mark. He was quickly hustled off before much more could be said.

At the bar, the agent made me an offer for more work. He explained that they had had a few injuries and they had room for a part time jobber, working mainly the B and C teams over the next month or so. I could work the TV taping the next night then I would have two nights off. I was expected to be at the next stop Saturday afternoon and then I would travel with the group. They would provide the airline tickets to the first stop and then I would travel with the boys, flying to places 400 miles or more away and driving or riding to places closer. We'd work two shows on Saturday and Sunday, then Monday through Tuesday of the following week. Wednesday and Thursday would be off days (go home or whatever, but no expenses during those two days) then pick up again on Friday and work the next weekend (one Friday, two Saturday and Sunday) plus Monday before they taped again.

The pay system was complicated due to the double shots on the weekend and the expenses. Basically, I was going to make about \$2500 for the three weeks worth of work, plus the check I had coming for the set of TV tapes we were working on.

The agent explained that I wouldn't be paid the standard jobber rate (or at least the same as a Barry Horowitz) because I wasn't permanent. I was joking when I said something like, "Gee, that means I ought to get paid more."

He didn't take it as a joke and he told me that if I didn't like the pay, I could pack my bags right then and head back home and forget about the taping tomorrow night. He went on and on about how many guys there was in my position who would kill to get to work for the Fed for just one night rather than this kind of opportunity. I took the job and shut my mouth.

He told me that he would have a booking sheet for me the next night. I had no idea what a booking sheet was, but I said okay.

The next night was very similar to the first set of tapings I worked. I worked the first hour and the third hour, both times as a heel. The first match was a tag match and I got to do a job, mainly because my partner was so sick (nerves) that he swore he was going to do an Eric Embry and puke all over the ring. The second match was the longest TV match I'd ever done (about 3:30) and I looked bad. I missed a couple of easy moves and the baby was so upset with me that as he was pinning me, he told me I'd never work for Titan again.

Got ahead of myself. Before the matches, we were handed the booking sheets in a meeting. Booking sheets just tell where the Fed is going to be, city by city, arena by arena, etc. and what wrestlers would be where. Most of the guys knew their marriages anyway (who they would be working with/feuding with). Also listed were the agents that would be on hand for each show. For some reason, the wrestler pretty much travel as a group with only a few changes. The agents are all over the place with one group working San Francisco one night, but Kansas City the next. The other group that worked Chicago would head for Los Angeles instead of the logical SF-LA route you would

have thought.

I found my name and the agents that were working the first town I was in. They gave me instructions about reporting into the arena and the hotel we would be staying at. That also was listed on the booking sheet, but I didn't notice that at first. I was told that I would be paired up with another wrestler that night, possibly a local jobber, possibly one of the stars, all depending on who showed up and who didn't. I was assured that I'd never work higher than second on the card.

My wife was pretty excited about me getting the work. I went home for the two days between shows and got a leave of absence from my job (back in the department store), and notified my promotion that I wouldn't be able to work for the next three weeks. To cover there, they did a thing where I had been "injured" by my rival. The promoter said not to worry about it, he understood. When I got back, they'd put me over bigger than ever as a killer heel and maybe do some main eventing. Promoters talk like that a lot and you learn to believe them only as long as they're on the telephone line. They tend to have short memories and this guy was no exception.

When I got to the first town, the agent met with me at the hotel and we even shared a ride over to the arena. I was told that I would be working with a guy Titan was giving a tryout to. He was in, but he hadn't worked the TV shows yet so the fans wouldn't know who he was. They wanted to take a look at him both as a baby and as a heel so we were to switch roles every night. Wonderful.

Our first few matches weren't very good. Meltzer gave us  $\frac{1}{4}$ \* to  $\frac{1}{2}$ \* when he reported on us. Wrestling Forum gave us D's when they carried a report. By the time we took our first break, we were doing pretty well together and I was playing the heel every night. We became pretty good friends and we still talk quite often. It turned out we had similar interests outside of the ring.

Coming back from break, I was surprised to see that my friend wasn't going to be working our shows again. They wanted to see him against someone else. The agent that had recruited me was now our road agent for the next six shows before the TV taping. Before he had come on our team, one of the other agents had asked if I was available for full time job work in case they needed it. With this guy, he had obviously taken a disliking to me and I went from full time jobber hopeful to "you've only got x number of days left, kid."

Friday's show was my most interesting. Some of the boys didn't make it back from break on time and another group had been delayed at the airport where they flew in from. I was scheduled for the opening match against one of the Fed's regulars. I was the heel, and the agent sent us on about ten minutes late. He told us to wrestle until the referee told us different. It was another one of those famous fifteen minute time limit matches that went twenty while we waited for someone else to show up. The Fed guy was not in very good shape (neither was I for that matter) and we must have set a world's record for rest holds. We'd do a quick spot followed by a side headlock. Another spot followed by a side headlock. The fans were tossing stuff in the ring and we were trying to keep from laughing out loud because we were in on the joke. The referee (a Fed employee) finally asked us if either of us was hurt. My opponent looked up at him and said "No, this guy only knows how to sell one hold." Then it was the ref's turn to laugh.

When we got back to the dressing room, Mr. Cheerful Agent started chewing us out. I didn't say a lot because I was on thin ice as it was, but the Fed guy was very vocal. He told the agent that it wasn't our fault that some of the boys were hung over or wasted out of their skulls. The adjectives were really flying between these two and I

figured the best place for me was back at the hotel

Nothing else eventful happened while I was working, though there were some out of the ring experiences that are worth noting.

Smart fans - I was approached more than once by the readers of various sheets. They came up outside the arenas. They came up at the bars. They caught me at McDonald's before the matches. Since I was on "probation" so to speak, I didn't know if they were plants or not so I brushed them off as quick as I could. I apologize to anyone who I might offended.

Arena rats - the most obnoxious one I met was this fat thing in Illinois. These creatures come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Some come from the Tammy Faye school of make-up application while others (like the one mentioned) are fat and smell bad. I never did sleep with one, though I had plenty of chances. Actually, there weren't any that I would say were even average looking. Still, the wrestlers who hung around with these chicks seemed to enjoy their company and depended upon them in a lot of cases for rides to and from airports and in some cases, between arenas. Funny thing about these types: they don't realize that every city/area has arena rats and that the same wrestlers who use them in one place are the ones who use them all over the place.

Some of the boys have their regular rats. They can count on seeing Glenda or Penny whenever they hit a certain town. Others like the beefy one in Illinois, pick up whoever they can.

Drugs - still the rats provide them. I don't know why the Fed bothers to test the wrestlers because the boys don't worry about it. I was told by one star that if one of the main eventers gets caught with coke in his system, it's no big deal unless Vince wants to make it one.

Booking - I didn't realize this, but very few of the shows are ridgedly scripted. The agents tell the boys who they want to go over at the house show and then the two wrestlers come up with everything else. Some of the middle of the card guys even get to trade wins from time to time. There are a couple of agents though, who insist that they have complete control over the matches including finishes. When they tell the wrestlers one thing and they end up doing another, the boys involved usually get out of it by saying they couldn't work that particular finish within the time frame given or they tell the agent it would have looked stupid to do it their way. What the wrestlers say depends on how secure they feel in their job.

Pay - I don't know how the regular guys get paid but I was given cash for expenses every night out of the gate. Once a week, I was given a check for the amount I had agreed on. One week, I got a bonus. I won't tell you the exact amount of my check, because, even though they didn't take out taxes, the amount was not an even amount. If I told, I've got a feeling they could go back and check to see what they paid who and then I wouldn't get to work again.

When I got back home, we paid a few bills that had been piling up. I got to sign up for unemployment again since someone at the department store had forgotten to okay my leave of absence (they'd been looking for an excuse to get rid of me anyway, I think).

I went back to working for the independent group that I'd landed a job with. Remember that promised push? Well, the promoter sure didn't. I was back to working opening matches for them and making about \$40 per show. That sounds pretty good, but we only ran two to three shows per week.

I still refuse to take steroids. I'm not getting any younger. I should finish up my education within the next year and then it won't

matter a whole lot how much work I get.

And just to clear up a few questions from readers that have been passed along to me...

Most of the Fed boys are easy to get along with. There is very definitely a mix of personalities, but most of them try to make you feel welcome, especially when you're working on a regular basis.

Ted DiBiase and Randy Savage have the reps as being the easiest guys to work with. Others who have worked with Savage in squashes say that he ends up making them look good. He can throw a punch that looks like a potato, but it's hardly felt at all. Pair him up with someone who knows how to sell and you'll have one fantastic match.

#### UPDATE - JANUARY 1990

No more work from Titan coming my way right now. I think maybe that agent that got ticked off at me has kept me from getting any more work. NO one else mentioned the Forum or the article, though through phone calls to some of the friends I made, I know that it's read and that they are looking forward to the sequel.

The independent I was working for is down to about one show per week plus the TV taping they do about once a month. My income from wrestling for the year 1989, before expenses, was 7,315.00. That includes the money made from the Fed.

I've finished school and now have a full time job in my chosen profession and it ain't wrestling. Some of the people at work know I wrestle, but there aren't any macho type guys who have challenged me. You don't do that to a guy who wears a suit, I guess.

I realize that wrestling will never be my main source of income. I enjoy working part time for the independent, but with the job I have now, I doubt that I would take the leave of absence to pursue another stint with the Fed.

But should the bug bite again, or should they call, be assured, there will be a Week with the Fed Part III.

But don't hold your breath.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...is the NWA find its rightful place in wrestling. They have superior wrestlers and could be much more successful but it seems as if anything they try turns out against them. It's as if someone within their organization is on McMahon's payroll and is doing all he can to sabotage them. The people running the NWA need to learn how to promote on the local level. They used to put on shows in Los Angeles, but there was no promotion so the crowds didn't show. They should watch how Vince McMahon does it. I hate to admit it but his organization really knows how to go about promoting on all levels. My wish for the 90's would be to see the NWA run a successful promotion on a level that would make them money yet not force them to compromise their wrestlers and turn them into WWF-like clowns and steroid freaks.

-KAREN SHEHORN-  
-North Hollywood, CA-

I'M MOST SICK OF...promotions "forgetting" names of wrestlers (Curt Hennig, Terry Taylor, Barry Windham).  
THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...non wrestling bookers.

-SAM NORD-  
-Walnut Creek, CA-

I'M MOST SICK OF...tag title bouts being reversed because the wrong man has been pinned...wrestlers "selling" poor dropkicks or being pinned after a clothesline to the chest...\$3-4 programs...untalented behemoths and steroid freaks.  
THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...state/regional champions...some 2 of 3 fall matches...tag team elimination matches and other creative things such as Starrcade 89...matches involving two heels or two babyfaces...the Guerrero brothers with a major promotion...more matches that settle something.

-RON DOBRATZ-  
-Roscoe, IL-

I'M MOST SICK OF...Hulk Hogan and bad WWF matches...Ultimate Warrior.  
THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...Roddy Piper retire again (much prefer to see him in Hollywood. Considering all the aggravation he's gone through this year, he should be wondering if it's all worth it)...the NWA become more of a success...Vince pay for all those bad WWF matches and be forced to improve the overall quality of his promotion...Dusty Rhodes retire for the benefit of mankind, Ric Flair have an easy time adjusting to his eventual phase-out as #1 guy in the NWA.

-TERESA DeMARIE-  
-Tuckahoe, NY-



# DECADE END AWARDS

## by Sean Grande

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The following awards are our DECADE END awards as voted on by our readers and compiled by Sean Grande. Across the top of each category, you will find 1st place votes through whatever number we asked for along with the total number of points achieved. Ted points were awarded for each first place vote and descended by one for each place lower.

### WRESTLER OF THE DECADE - RIC FLAIR

| WRESTLER         | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | total |
|------------------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-------|
| RIC FLAIR        | 10 | 16 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | -  | 284   |
| HULK HOGAN       | 19 | 6  | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1  | 283   |
| BRUISER BRODY    | -  | 4  | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 1  | 137   |
| HARLEY RACE      | -  | -  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | -  | 86    |
| AKIRA MAEDA      | -  | 1  | 3 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | -  | 84    |
| Tatsumi Fujinami | 1  | 2  | 1 | 3 | - | 2 | 3 | - | - | 1  | 80    |
| Satoru Sayama    | 2  | -  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | 1  | 78    |
| Dusty Rhodes     | -  | -  | 5 | - | 3 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2  | 75    |
| Roddy Piper      | -  | 2  | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | -  | 70    |
| Ted DiBiase      | -  | 1  | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | -  | 61    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Randy Savage (56), Ricky Steamboat (56), Andre the Giant (55), Nick Bockwinkel (54), Dynamite Kid (48), Barry Windham (42), Antonio Inoki (32), Jerry Lawler (29), Kerry Von Erich (28), Riki Choshu (26), Terry Funk (23), Stan Hansen (22), Bob Backlund (20), Road Warriors (18), Don Muraco (16), Yoshiaki Yatsu (12), Jimmy Snuka (10), Nobuhiko Takada (9), Larry Zbyszko (7), Dick Murdoch (7), Sting (6), Paul Orndorff (6), Terry Gordy (6), Sgt Slaughter (6), Ken Patera (6), Michael Hayes (4), Giant Baba (4), Kunaki Kobayashi (4), Dory Funk Jr. (4), Ultimate Warrior (3), Carlos Colon (3), David Von Erich (3), Mil Mascaras (2), Black Tiger (2), Butch Reed (2), Gino Hernandez (1), Adrian Adonis (1), Adrian Street (1).

### decade end ratings

#### DECADE END RATINGS -- THE TOP TWENTY FIVE

| rank | WRESTLER         | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | TOTAL |
|------|------------------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-------|
| 1    | RIC FLAIR        | 24 | 1  | 6 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | -  | 303   |
| 2    | TED DIBIASE      | 1  | 10 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | -  | 221   |
| 3    | RICKY STEAMBOAT  | -  | 4  | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | - | 2 | - | 1  | 173   |
| 4    | SATORU SAYAMA    | 3  | 6  | 4 | 3 | 3 | - | - | 2 | 1 | -  | 155   |
| 5    | DYNAMITE KID     | 1  | 3  | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1  | 143   |
| 6    | Barry Windham    | -  | 2  | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 1  | 135   |
| 7    | Tatsumi Fujinami | 1  | -  | - | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | - | 2 | -  | 76    |
| 8    | Harley Race      | -  | 2  | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | -  | 72    |
| 9    | Bret Hart        | -  | 1  | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 1  | 60    |
| 10   | Nick Bockwinkel  | 1  | -  | 1 | - | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1  | 48    |
| 11   | Nobuhiko Takada  | -  | -  | - | 1 | - | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1  | 45    |
| 12   | Bob Backlund     | -  | 2  | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2  | 43    |
| 12   | Randy Savage     | -  | -  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 2  | 43    |
| 14   | Bruiser Brody    | -  | -  | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | -  | 40    |
| 15   | Owen Hart        | -  | -  | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2  | 32    |
| 16   | Terry Funk       | -  | -  | - | - | 2 | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 31    |
| 17   | Yoshiaki Yatsu   | -  | -  | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 2  | 27    |
| 18   | Adrian Adonis    | 1  | -  | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1  | 21    |
| 19   | Masa Saito       | 1  | -  | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2  | 17    |
| 20   | Roddy Piper      | -  | -  | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | -  | 15    |
| 21   | Tully Blanchard  | 1  | -  | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | -  | 12    |
| 21   | Curt Hennig      | -  | 1  | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3  | 12    |
| 23   | Don Muraco       | -  | -  | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | -  | 11    |
| 24   | Kunaki Kobayashi | -  | -  | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2  | 10    |
| 24   | Sting            | -  | -  | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | -  | 10    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Billy Robinson (7), Bruce Hart (7), Brad Armstrong (6), Greg Valentine (6), Davey Boy Smith (6), Wilbur Snider (5), the Cobra (5), Chavo Guerrero (5), Terry Taylor (5), Bruno Sammartino (4), Arn Anderson (4), Bobby Eaton (5), Ricki Choshu (4), Black Tiger (4), Brad Rheingans (3), Chris Adams (3), Dick Murdoch (3), Mike Rotundo (3), Shawn Michaels (3), Kerry Von Erich (3), Michael Hayes (2), Stan Hansen (2), Genichiro Tenryu (2), Butch Reed (1), Jumbo Tsuruta (1), and Eddie Gilbert (1).

### TAG TEAM OF THE DECADE - THE ROAD WARRIORS

| TAG TEAM      | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | TOTAL |
|---------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| ROAD WARRIORS | 14 | 8 | 4 | 4 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 215   |



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tag team of the decade continued

|                                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | total |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Midnight Express               | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 156   |
| British Bulldogs               | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | - | 2 | 127   |
| Fabulous Freebirds             | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | - | 120   |
| Stan Hansen/Bruiser Brody      | - | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 90    |
| Ricky Steamboat/Jay Youngblood | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 55    |
| Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson   | 3 | - | 1 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 53    |
| Rock and Roll Express          | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | 3 | 47    |
| Midnight Rockers               | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 39    |
| Riki Choshu/Yoshiaki Yatsu     | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 34    |
| Jack and Jerry Brisco          | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 29    |
| Akira Maeda/Nobuhiko Takada    | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 28    |
| Bret Hart/Jim Neidhart         | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | 25    |
| Adrian Adonis/Dick Murdoch     | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 5 | 1 | 25    |
| Jumbo Tsuruta/Genichiro Tenryu | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 22    |
| Terry and Dory Funk Jr.        | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 21    |
| Bobby Fulton/Tommy Rogers      | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 19    |
| Ricki Choshu/Animal Hamaguchi  | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 16    |
| Keiji Mutoh/Shiro Koshinaka    | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 15    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Von Erichs (9), Ole/Arn/Gene/Lars Anderson (8), Rick Martel/Tito Santana (8), Adrian Adonis/Jesse Ventura (8), Stan Hansen/Terry Gordy (6), Can-Am Connection (6), Sgt Slaughter/Don Kernodle (6), Guerrero Brothers (5), Samoan Swat Team (4), Terry Godry/Jimmy Sunka (4), Wild Samoans (4), Footloose (4), Islanders (4), Barry Windham/Mike Rotundo (3), Demolition (3), Ivan PUTski/Tito Santana (3), Ivan and Nikita Koloff (2), Paul Diamond/Pat Tanaka (2), Stan Lane/Steve Kiern (1), Ted DiBiase/Steve Williams (1), Jumping Bomb Angels (1), and Greg Gagne/Jim Brunzell (1).

#### BABYFACE OF THE DECADE - HULK HOGAN

| WRESTLER              | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| HULK HOGAN            | 29 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 249   |
| DUSTY RHODES          | 2  | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 102   |
| BOB BACKLUND          | 1  | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | - | 88    |
| KERRY VON ERICH       | -  | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 88    |
| MAGNUM TA TERRY ALLEN | 1  | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 86    |
| Jerry Lawler          | -  | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 75    |
| Chigusa Nagayo        | -  | 5 | 3 | 1 | - | 3 | 1 | - | 69    |
| Ricky Steamboat       | -  | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | 55    |
| Riki Choshu           | -  | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | 48    |
| Sgt Slaughter         | -  | 2 | - | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 41    |
| Akira Maeda           | -  | - | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 39    |
| Jimmy Snuka           | -  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | 37    |
| Sting                 | 1  | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 30    |
| Hacksaw Duggan        | -  | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 27    |
| Tommy Rich            | -  | - | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | - | 25    |
| Ricky Morton          | -  | - | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | 18    |
| Roddy Piper           | -  | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 17    |
| Ultimate Warrior      | -  | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 16    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Antonio Inoki (15), Ric Flair (11), Terry Taylor (10), Tatsumi Fujinami (9), Bruno Sammartino (9), Randy Savage (9), Satoru Sayma (9), Kevin Von Erich (8), Tito Santana (6), Junkyard Dog (6), Rick Martel (5), Dick the Bruiser (4), Mil Mascaras (3), Dynamite Kid (3), David Von Erich (2), Brutus Beefcake (2), Chris Adams (2), Paul Orndorff (1), Bill Watts (1), Elizabeth (1).

#### HEEL OF THE DECADE - RODDY PIPER

| WRESTLER       | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | TOTAL |
|----------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| RODDY PIPER    | 19 | 4 | 2 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 210   |
| RIC FLAIR      | 6  | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | - | 2 | 128   |
| MICHAEL HAYES  | 1  | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 90    |
| TERRY FUNK     | -  | 6 | 3 | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 85    |
| DUMP MATSUMOTO | 2  | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 2 | 65    |
| Larry Zbyszko  | 1  | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 64    |
| Kevin Sullivan | 1  | - | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | - | 4 | 53    |
| Randy Savage   | -  | 3 | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 46    |
| Ted DiBiase    | 1  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | - | 45    |
| Bruiser Brody  | -  | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 35    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Dick Murdoch (30), Don Muraco (28), Bill Dundee (27), Harley Race (26), Stan Hansen (26), Sgt Slaughter (24), Paul Orndorff (22), Abdullah the Butcher (22), Austin Idol (2)

# MANAGER OF THE DECADE - JIM CORNETTE

| MANAGER                   | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|---|---|-------|
| JIM CORNETTE              | 16 | 3  | 6 | 4 | - | 119   |
| BOBBY HEENAN              | 7  | 13 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 105   |
| JIMMY HART                | 3  | 6  | 7 | 3 | 5 | 71    |
| LOU ALBANO                | 5  | 4  | 2 | 6 | 5 | 63    |
| GRAND WIZARD (ERNIE ROTH) | 2  | 5  | 7 | 5 | 1 | 62    |
| James J. Dillon           | 1  | 1  | 1 | 3 | 2 | 20    |
| Paul E Dangerously        | -  | -  | 2 | 3 | 5 | 17    |
| Fred Blassie              | -  | 1  | 1 | 1 | 4 | 13    |
| Skandor Akbar             | -  | 1  | - | 3 | - | 10    |
| Gary Hart                 | -  | -  | - | 2 | 2 | 6     |

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: Oliver Humperdink (5), Johnny V (4), Elizabeth (4), Eddie Gilbert (3), Paul Ellering (3), Slick (2), Percy Pringle (1), Diamond Dallas Paige (1).

## DIPSTICK OF THE DECADE - JOSE GONZALES

| NOMINEE         | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|-----------------|----|----|---|---|---|-------|
| JOSE GONZALES   | 18 | 2  | 2 | - | - | 104   |
| FRITZ VON ERICH | 8  | 10 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 100   |
| VERNE GAGNE     | 4  | 6  | 4 | 5 | 3 | 69    |
| DUSTY RHODES    | 1  | 5  | 7 | 3 | 2 | 54    |
| CARLOS COLON    | 1  | 6  | 5 | - | 3 | 46    |
| Vince McMahon   | 1  | 3  | 3 | 4 | 1 | 35    |
| David Crockett  | -  | -  | 3 | 3 | 5 | 20    |
| Akira Maeda     | -  | 1  | 2 | 3 | 3 | 19    |
| Jim Crockett    | -  | 1  | - | 4 | 2 | 14    |
| Bruiser Brody   | -  | -  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7     |

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: Hulk Hogan (6), Lia Maivia (6), Jim Neidhart (6), Rasslin' Radio in Philadelphia (4), Ultimate Warrior (3), Eric Embry (2), Lars Anderson (2), Jerry Jarrett (2), Corporal Kirschner (2), Ed Whalen (1), Gorilla Monsoon (1), Iron Sheik (1).

## MAJOR EVENT OF THE DECADE - WRESTLEMANIA III

| EVENT & (DATE)                   | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| WRESTLEMANIA III (3/29/87)       | 14 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 125   |
| STARRCADE 83 (11/24/83)          | 7  | 7 | 3 | 1 | - | 74    |
| CROCKETT CUP I (4/19/86-4/20/86) | 2  | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 45    |
| WRESTLEMANIA I (3/31/85)         | 5  | - | - | - | - | 25    |
| STARRCADE 86 (11/27/86)          | 1  | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 22    |
| PARADE OF CHAMPIONS (5/6/84)     | -  | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 22    |
| WWF's Shea Stadium (8/9/80)      | -  | - | 3 | 4 | 3 | 20    |
| NWA Night of Champions (5/29/84) | -  | 2 | 3 | - | 2 | 19    |
| Starrcade 84 (11/22/84)          | -  | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 16    |
| Wrestlewar 89 (5/7/89)           | 2  | 1 | - | 1 | - | 16    |

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: War Gasmes IV 11/25/86 (10), Clash of Champions I 3/27/88 (10), Japanese (9), Starrcade 85 (8), Survivor's Series I (11/26/87 (7), 42nd Annual Slammies (5), Chi Town Rumble 2/20/89 (5), Last Tangle in Tampa (5), Summerslam 89 8/28/89 (5), Survivor Series II 11/25/88 (3), WWF Wrestling Classic 11/7/85 (3), Samurai Island 1988 (3), Starrcade 87 11/26/87 (3), Prime Time Main Event 2/5/88 (3), Madison Square Garden 12/29/80 (3), Thanksgiving Tag Tournament 11/26/81 (3), Wrestlemania IV 3/27/88 (2), Glory Days-The Great American Bash 7/11/88 (2), USSR Egg Dome 1989 (2), Crockett Cup III 1988 (2), Great American Bash 7/23/89 (2), Clash of Champions 3/27/88 (1), Starrcade 88 12/26/88 (1), Prime Time Main Event 2/3/89 (1), WWF Big Event 8/30/86 (1), Mid South Coliseum Lawler retirement 5/9/88 (1), The Homecoming 1989 (1).

## PROMOTION OF THE DECADE - WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

| PROMOTION                  | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION | 13 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 114   |

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PROBATION of the decade continued

|                                       | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | total |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Mid South/Universal Wrestling Fed     | 12 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 101   |
| National Wrestling Alliance/JCP       | 2  | 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 57    |
| New Japan Pro Wrestling               | 4  | 2 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 55    |
| Georgia Championship Wrestling        | 3  | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 48    |
| Championship Wrestling from Memphis   | -  | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 34    |
| All Japan Pro Wrestling               | -  | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 24    |
| Universal Wrestling Federation(Maeda) | -  | 2 | 2 | 3 | - | 20    |
| World Class Championship Wrestling    | -  | - | 1 | 4 | 3 | 14    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** American Wrestling Association (8), Championship Wrestling from Florida (8), Calgary Stampede (6), Pacific Northwest (5), Pro Wrestling USA (4), World Wrestling Council (2), Southwest Championship Wrestling (1).

#### BRAWLER OF THE DECADE - BRUISER BRODY

| WRESTLER             | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|----------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| BRUISER BRODY        | 27 | 3 | 3 | - | - | 155   |
| STAN HANSEN          | 3  | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 82    |
| TERRY GORDY          | 1  | 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 73    |
| TED DIBIASE          | -  | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 42    |
| JIM DUGGAN           | -  | - | 3 | 2 | 3 | 16    |
| Jerry Lawler         | 1  | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 15    |
| Dick Murdoch         | -  | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 13    |
| Buzz Sawyer          | -  | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 10    |
| Abdullah the Butchwe | -  | 2 | - | 1 | - | 10    |
| Steve Williams       | -  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10    |
| Roddy Piper          | -  | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 10    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Terry Funk (8), Eddie Gilbert (8), the Sheik (5), Barry Windham (5), Mighty Igor (4), Ole Anderson (4), Dusty Rhodes (4), Ric Flair (4), Terry Taylor (3), Randy Savage (3), Rick Rude (3), Road Warriors (3), Arn Anderson (3), Jumbo Tsuruta (2), Jerry Blackwell (2), Tatsumi Fujinami (2), Dick the Bruiser (2), Kevin Sullivan (2), Mad Dog Vachon (1), Michael Hayes (1), Tommy Rich (1).

#### MOST OVERRATED WRESTLER OF THE DECADE - HULK HOGAN

| WRESTLER         | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|------------------|----|----|---|---|---|-------|
| HULK HOGAN       | 16 | 4  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 105   |
| DUSTY RHODES     | 6  | 12 | 4 | 2 | - | 94    |
| JOHN STUDD       | 3  | 2  | 3 | 1 | 2 | 36    |
| PEDRO MORALES    | 1  | -  | 2 | 4 | 2 | 21    |
| ULTIMATE WARRIOR | -  | 2  | 3 | - | 1 | 18    |
| Andre the Giant  | 2  | -  | - | 3 | 1 | 17    |
| Bruno Sammartino | 1  | 1  | 2 | - | - | 15    |
| Giant Baba       | -  | 2  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14    |
| Antonio Inoki    | -  | 1  | 2 | 1 | 4 | 16    |
| Ivan Putski      | 2  | -  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Dino Bravo (11), Kevin Von Erich (10), Junkyard Dog (10), Owen Hart (8), Greg Gagne (8), Bobby Eaton (6), Tommy Rich (6), Carlos Colon (5), Sgt Slaughter (5), Mr. Wrestling II (5), Akira Maeda (5), Satoru Sayama (4), Baron Von Raschke (4), Road Warriors (4), George Steele (4), Michael Hayes (4), Ken Patera (3), Jimmy Valiant (3), Tony Atlas (3), Islander Haku (3), Jim Duggan (3), Kevin Sullivan (2), Bob Backlund (2), Wendi Richter (2), Ronnie Garvin (2), Terry Gordy (2), Bruiser Brody (2), Honky Tonk Man (2), Mike Von Erich (1), Bob Orton (1).

#### MOST UNDERRATED WRESTLER OF THE DECADE - BRET HART

| WRESTLER       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| BRET HART      | 5 | 6 | 5 | - | 1 | 65    |
| BRAD ARMSTRONG | 5 | 5 | 3 | - | 2 | 56    |
| BOBBY EATON    | 2 | 6 | 4 | 4 | - | 54    |
| TITO SANTANA   | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 39    |
| ADRIAN ADONIS  | 3 | - | - | 5 | 2 | 27    |

most underrated wrestler continued

|               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | total |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Keichi Yamada | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 21    |
| Curt Hennig   | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 19    |
| Sam Houston   | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 11    |
| Terry Taylor  | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 10    |
| Rick Rude     | 2 | - | - | - | - | 10    |

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**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** GREG VALENTINE (9), Dennis Condrey (8), Buddy Landell (8), Tom Pritchard (7), Bruce Hart (6), Rick Steamboat (6), Pat Tanaka (6), Ted DiBiase (5), Tully Blanchard (5), Eddie Guerrerro (4), Larry Zbyszko (4), Marty Janetty (4), Mike Sharpe (4), Scott Steiner (4), Jake Roberts (4), Mike Jackson (3), Ivan Koloff (3), Lex Luger (3), Negro Casa (3), Chris Benoit (3), Derrick Dukes (3), Colonel DeBeers (2), Tommy Rogers (2), Konga the Barbarian (2), Barry Horowitz (2), Randy Savage (2), Austin Idol (2), Barry Windham (2), Brady Boone (1), Bob Backlund (1), Jerry Lawler (1), Owen Hart (1), Atlantis (1).

#### TV PROGRAM OF THE DECADE - MID SOUTH/UWF

| PROGRAM                               | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| MID SOUTH/UWF (BILL WATTS)            | 16 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 117   |
| GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING        | 6  | 5 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 70    |
| WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING (85-89)  | 1  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 40    |
| CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING FROM MEMPHIS   | 2  | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 40    |
| WWF CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING/SUPERSTARS | 3  | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | 35    |
| All Japan Pro Wrestling               | 1  | 4 | 2 | - | 3 | 31    |
| New Japan Pro Wrestling               | 1  | 4 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 30    |
| World Class Championship Wrestling    | 1  | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | 21    |
| World Wide Wrestling                  | -  | 3 | 1 | - | - | 15    |
| Championship Wrestling from Florida   | -  | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 15    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Prime Time Wrestling (13), Pro Wrestling this Week (13), Power Pro Wrestling (12), Tuesday Night Titans (9), Wrestling at the Chase (8), NBC's Saturday Night's Main Event (8), NWA Main Event (8), AWA Championship Wrestling (8), NWA Power Hour (7), All American Wrestling (6), GLOW (5), Continental Championship Wrestling (3), AWA All Star Wrestling (1), the Bobby Heenan show (1).

#### TV ANNOUNCER OF THE DECADE - JIM ROSS

| ANNOUNCER          | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|--------------------|----|----|----|---|---|-------|
| JIM ROSS           | 17 | 3  | 11 | - | - | 130   |
| GORDON SOLIE       | 5  | 9  | 6  | 6 | 1 | 92    |
| LANCE RUSSELL      | 5  | 11 | 2  | 4 | 1 | 84    |
| TONY SHIVONE       | 3  | 5  | 3  | 7 | 2 | 59    |
| VINCE MCMAHON      | 1  | 2  | 2  | 5 | 4 | 33    |
| Boyd Pierce        | 1  | 1  | 5  | - | 1 | 25    |
| Gorilla Monsoon    | -  | 1  | 1  | 2 | 4 | 14    |
| Gene Okerlund      | -  | 1  | 2  | 1 | 1 | 13    |
| Bob Caudle         | -  | -  | 1  | - | 4 | 7     |
| Larry Matysik      | 1  | -  | -  | - | - | 5     |
| Lord Althol Layton | 1  | -  | -  | - | - | 5     |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** MICK KARCH (4), Jack Reynold (4), Lee Marshall (3), Dave Brown (2), David McLane (1), Rick Stuart (1).

#### COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE DECADE - JESSE VENTURA

| COLOR COMMENTATOR | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|-------------------|----|----|---|---|---|-------|
| JESSE VENTURA     | 28 | 3  | 1 | 2 | - | 159   |
| MICHAEL HAYES     | 3  | 13 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 91    |
| NICK BOCKWINKEL   | 1  | 5  | 4 | 1 | 1 | 40    |
| RODDY PIPER       | -  | 5  | 4 | 1 | - | 34    |
| JIM CORNETTE      | -  | 3  | 3 | 2 | 2 | 27    |
| Bruno Sammartino  | 1  | -  | 3 | 3 | 4 | 24    |
| Makhan Singh      | -  | -  | 5 | 1 | 1 | 18    |
| Pat Patterson     | -  | -  | 2 | 4 | 1 | 15    |
| Bobby Heenan      | -  | 1  | - | 4 | 3 | 15    |

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**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Johnny Valiant (8), Bill Watts (7), Paul E Dangerously (5), Ole Anderson (4), Gorilla Monsoon (4), Jerry Graham (3), Tom Pritchard (3), Dave Brown (3), Bobby Jaggers (2), Ray Stevens (2), Gene Okerlund (2), Scotty the Body Levee (2).

**WORST TV ANNOUNCER OF THE DECADE - DAVID CROCKETT**

| ANNOUNCER       | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|-----------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| DAVID CROCKETT  | 15 | 4 | 4 | - | 1 | 103   |
| MARK LOWRANCE   | 2  | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 47    |
| BILL MERCER     | 1  | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 47    |
| RON TRONGARD    | 3  | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 36    |
| ED WHALEN       | 4  | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 36    |
| Angelo Mosca    | 3  | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 35    |
| Gorilla Monsoon | 2  | 2 | 1 | - | - | 21    |
| David McLane    | -  | 2 | 2 | 3 | - | 20    |
| Billy Graham    | 2  | - | - | 2 | 3 | 17    |
| Vince McMahon   | 1  | - | 2 | - | - | 11    |
| Steve Stack     | -  | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 11    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Matt Aruskin (8), Larry Nelson (8), Buddy Colt (5), James Blears (5), Mike McGuirk (4), Ernie Ladd (4), Bob Montana (3), Bob Caudle (3), Bruno Samartino (3), Verne Gagne (3), Al Hayes (3), Roger Kent (2), Rick Stuart (1), Barry Richards (1).

**MANEUVER OF THE DECADE - JAKE ROBERTS' DDT**

| WRESTLER & MANEUVER                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| JAKE ROBERTS' DDT                   | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 72    |
| MUTA'S MOONSAULT                    | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 57    |
| SNUKA'S SUPERFLY SPLASH             | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 56    |
| YAMADA'S SHOOTING STAR PRESS        | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 26    |
| OWEN HART'S ROPE WALK/HIP TOSS      | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 26    |
| Scott Steiner's Frankensteiner      | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 18    |
| Arn Anderson's Gourdbuster          | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 17    |
| Warriors' top rope clothesline      | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 16    |
| Magnum TA's belly to belly suplex   | - | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | 12    |
| Tiger Mask's Cartwheel X-body block | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 12    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Sting's scorpion (10), Savage's elbow drop (9), Chris Adams' superkick (6), Badd Company's slingshot DDT (6), Orton's superplex (5), Hogan's cage plex (5), Arn Anderson's spinebuster (5), Flair's figure four (5), Midnight Express' Veg-o-matic (5), DiBiase's fist drop (4), Owen Hart's leap through ropes (4), Owen Hart's moonsault (4), Guererro's flying bodypress (4), Orndorff's piledriver (4), Dynamite Kid's snap suplex (4), Midnight Express double goozel (4), Barry Windham's superplex (4), Midnight Express' flap jack (3), Super D's superplex (2), Abdullah's flying elbow (2), Cactus Jack's flying elbow from apron (2), Dynamite Kid's flying headbutt (2), Mascasas' body press (2), Brian Pillman's Air Pillman (2), Demolition's elbow double team (2), Hennig's perfect plex (1), Idol & Lawler's ringpost groin pull (1), Casas' small package (1),

**MOST DISGUSTING EVENT OF THE DECADE - COLON EMPLOYING JOSE GONZALES AS BABYFACE**

| EVENT                                                                | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| WWC EMPLOYING JOSE GONZALES                                          | 14 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 94    |
| WORLD CLASS' HANDLING OF DAVID VON ERICH'S DEATH                     | 5  | 9 | 1 | - | 1 | 65    |
| FRITZ VON ERICH'S "HEART ATTACK"                                     | 3  | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 47    |
| WWF 42ND ANNUAL SLAMMY AWARDS                                        | 1  | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | 26    |
| WORLD CLASS USE OF CHRIS ADAMS' BLINDNESS WITH GINO HERNANDEZ' DEATH | -  | 2 | 3 | 3 | - | 23    |
| Brody's Murder                                                       | 3  | - | 1 | 2 | - | 22    |
| WWC's use of Colon's wife                                            | 1  | 1 | - | 4 | 4 | 21    |

most disgusting event continued

1 2 3 4 5 total

World Class' use of Mike's death  
Flair kissing the mannequin  
Adrian Adonis' gay act

- 2 1 4 1 20  
1 2 - - - 13  
- 1 2 1 - 12

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**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Dusty Rhodes' tidy bowl skit (10), Carl Styles' glass eye being rolled around the ring (6), Flair, Funk and the plastic bag (7), WWF ignoring Adonis' death (6), WWF's use of Uncle Elmer's wedding (5), World Class female mud wrestling (5), WWF stereotype of Slick (4), DiBiase doing jobs for Dusty (4), Tuesday Night Titans (4), Eric Embry throwing up in ring (4), Billy Graham's surgery on TV (4), Los Angeles' Monster (4), Gino Hernandez' death (3), WWF's use of Harley Race (3), Dusty's eye for an eye (3), World Class' use of Mike Von Erich's death (2), Ted Turner forcing WWF off WTBS (2), WWF's use of Funks, Kerry Von Erich taking bids on a stolen hotel towel (2), Andre's fear of snakes (2), Rick Rude's act (1), WWF's use of animals (1), Verne's push of Greg Gagne (1), WWF's use of everyone (1), Land of 1000 Dances (1), USA cancelling TNT (1), NWA ignoring Brody's death (1), Blackjack Mulligan's heart attack (1).

# **WORST WRESTLER OF THE DECADE - ANDRE THE GIANT**

| WRESTLER                       | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| ANDRE THE GIANT                | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 93    |
| JUNK YARD DOG                  | 5  | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 61    |
| IVAN PUTSKI                    | 3  | 4 | 3 | - | 3 | 43    |
| ULTIMATE WARRIOR/DINGO WARRIOR | 2  | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 42    |
| JOHN STUDD                     | 1  | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 37    |
| Tom Magee                      | 3  | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 31    |
| Giant Baba                     | -  | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 25    |
| Stan Friazer/Uncle Elmer       | 2  | - | 2 | 4 | 1 | 25    |
| George Steele                  | 1  | - | 2 | 1 | 4 | 17    |
| Mike Von Erich                 | -  | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 12    |
| Hulk Hogan                     | 2  | - | - | - | - | 10    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Mighty Wilbur (6), Thunderbolt Patterson (6), Moose Cholak (5), Silo Sam (5), Dick the Bruiser (5), Baron Von Raschke (4), Rocky Mountain Thunder (4), Nicolai Volkoff (4), Dusty Rhodes (3), Zeus (3), Ken Patera (3), One Man Gang/Akeem (3), Man Eating Beast (3), Hillbilly Jim (3), Dino Bravo (3), Mr Fuji (3), Lance Von Erich (2), Islander Haku (2), Mr. Wrestling II (2), Verne Gagne (2), King Kong Bundy (2), Hiroshi Wajima (1), Bobo Brazil (4), Brutus Beefcake (1), Tim Brooks (1), Jim Duggan (1), Vladamir Pietrov (1).

worst match of the decade

# **WORST MATCH OF THE DECADE - RODDY PIPER VS MR. T (APRIL 7, 1986)**

| date MATCH                                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| 04/07/86 RODDY PIPER VS MR. T                | 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 76    |
| 09/29/85 FRED BLASSIE VS LOU ALBANO          | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 46    |
| 04/21/88 HIROSHI WAJIMA VS TOM MAGEE         | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 43    |
| 03/29/87 HULK HOGAN VS ANDRE THE GIANT       | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | - | 32    |
| 07/23/84 FABULOUS MOOLAH VS WENDI RICHTER    | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 2 | 27    |
| --/--/87 Giant Baba vs Raja Lion             | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 25    |
| 10/--/86 Antonio Inoki vs Leon Spinks        | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 3 | 18    |
| 03/31/85 Andre the Giant vs John Studd       | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 16    |
| --/--/-- Junkyard Dog vs Butch Reed          | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 9     |
| --/--/89 Andre the Giant vs Ultimate Warrior | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8     |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Lex Luger vs Nikita Koloff 7/11/87 (7), WMIII mixed six man tag 3/29/87 (5), Hogan vs Terry Funk 12/85 (5), Andre vs Bam Bam Bigelow 6/25/88 (5), Andre vs AKira Maeda 4/18/86 (5), King Kong Bundy vs S.D. Jones 3/31/85 (5), Hillbilly Jim vs Mr. Fuji 12/30/86 (5), Jim Cornette vs Baby Doll 7/86 (5), Ivan Koloff vs Paul Jones 4/2/89 (5), Ultimate Warrior vs Hercules 3/27/88 (4), Gagne vs Al-Kaissey 4/20/86 (4), Superstar Graham vs Butch Reed 10/19/87 (4), Hogan vs Andre 3/27/88 (4), Muraco vs Orndorff 4/7/86 (4), Zulu vs Bam Bam Bigelow 9/29/86 (4), Hogan vs Andre 2/5/88 (3), JYD vs Moondog Spot 11/8/85 (4), Bob Backlund vs George Steele 8/27/83 (3), Bob Backlund vs Stan Hansen 9/14/82 (3), Ken Patera vs Dino Bravo 8/29/88 (3), Rhodes vs Bubba 2/27/87 (3), WMII Battle Royal 4/7/86 (3), Beefcake vs Bass (3), Powers of Pain vs Warriors 7/88 (2), Rhodes vs Honky Tonk Man 11/23/89 (2), Andre vs Duggan 7/88 in LA (1), Andre vs Bundy 9/25/85 (1), Andre vs JYD 11/88 (1), Sunshine vs Missy Hyatt 2/87 (1), Adias vs Ito 11/22/84 (1), Atlas vs Adonis 8/25/86 (1).

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# WORST PROMOTION OF THE DECADE - AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

| PROMOTION                              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION (GAGNE) | 9 | - | 4 | - | 1 | 58    |
| WORLD CLASS (VON ERICH)                | 1 | 9 | 1 | 3 | - | 50    |
| CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING      | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 41    |
| CENTRAL STATES WRESTLING (GEIGEL)      | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 40    |
| BRUISER BEDLAM (DICK THE BRUISER)      | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 29    |
| U.W.A.                                 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 28    |
| Deep South (Hamilton)                  | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 23    |
| GLOW/POWW (McLain)                     | 2 | - | 1 | 2 | 4 | 21    |
| World Wrestling Federation (McMahon)   | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 21    |
| Oregon Wrestling Federation (Haynes)   | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 19    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Wrestling from Los Angeles..LaBell (18), IWA (16), Global...Florida (12), Wild West...Mantell (7), Montreal (5), Dave McKigney's Canada (5), Windy City Wrestling ...DeCero (5), U.A.W.A. (4), I.C.W...Savoldi (4), World Wrestling Council...Colon (3), Tri States Wrestling in Pennsylvania (3), Trans World Wrestling Federation (3), Body Slam (2), Crockett's version of UWF (2), World Organization Wrestling (2), Chicago Championship Wrestling (1), National Wrestling Federation (1), Championship Wrestling from Memphis (1) Atlantic Coast Wrestling (1),

## PROMOTER OF THE DECADE - VINCE MCMAHON JR.

| PROMOTER          | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|-------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| VINCE MCMAHON JR. | 18 | 5 | 3 | - | 4 | 123   |
| BILL WATTS        | 11 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 102   |
| PAUL BOESCH       | 3  | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 55    |
| GARY JUSTER       | -  | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 42    |
| VINCE MCMAHON SR. | 1  | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 35    |
| Jim Crockett      | -  | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | 15    |
| Eddie Sharkey     | -  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10    |
| Don Owen          | -  | - | 3 | - | 1 | 10    |
| Stu Hart          | -  | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 10    |
| Eddie Graham      | -  | 1 | 1 | - | - | 7     |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Johnny Hunter (4), Eddie Marlin (4), Ted Turner (3), Frank Tuney (3), Bob Luce (3), Fritz Von Erich (3), Jerry Jarrett (3), Mario Savoldi (3), Fred Ward (2), Phil Zacko (2), Ron West (1), Paul Jones (1).

## GIMMICK PERFORMER OF THE DECADE - SERGEANT SLAUGHTER (1980-PRESENT)

| WRESTLER (year began)             | 1 | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|---|----|---|---|---|-------|
| SERGEANT SLAUGHTER (1980-present) | 7 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 104   |
| ROAD WARRIORS (1983)              | 7 | 5  | 4 | 1 | 3 | 72    |
| TIGER MASK (1981)                 | 4 | 7  | 5 | 3 | 3 | 66    |
| TED DIBIASE (1987)                | 4 | 2  | 6 | 5 | 5 | 61    |
| HONKY TONK MAN                    | 5 | 3  | - | 5 | 3 | 50    |
| Adrian Street (1982)              | 1 | 3  | - | 1 | 1 | 20    |
| Hulk Hogan (1980/82)              | 2 | -  | 1 | 1 | - | 15    |
| Jake Roberts (1982)               | - | 2  | 1 | - | 2 | 13    |
| Abdullah the Butcher (pre 1980's) | 2 | -  | - | - | - | 10    |
| Nikita Koloff (1985)              | 1 | -  | - | 2 | - | 9     |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Big Bossman (7), Varsity Club-1988 (6), Big Van Vader-1988 (5), Roddy Piper-1981 (5), Ric Flair-1980 (4), Adrain Adonis-1986 (4), Colonel DeBeers-1986 (3), Four Horsemen-1986 (3), Iron Sheik-1979 (3), Curt Hennig-1988 (2), Randy Hogan-1988 (2), Missing Link-1984 (2), Andre the Giant-1965 (2), Jimmy Hart-1980 (2), Jerry Lawler-1970 (1), Great Muta-1989 (1), Mil Mascaras-1965 (1), Sting-1987 (1).

## WRESTLING BULLETIN OF THE DECADE - WRESTLING OBSERVER (DAVE MELTZER)

| BULLETIN & EDITOR                  | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|------------------------------------|----|----|---|---|---|-------|
| OBSERVER-DAVE MELTZER              | 30 | 3  | 1 | - | - | 165   |
| FORUM-JON GALLAGHER                | 3  | 21 | 4 | 5 | - | 120   |
| MAT RESULTS-BOB CLOSSON/JAY STEELE | 1  | 4  | 9 | 1 | 2 | 51    |
| MATWATCH-STEVE BEVERLY             | -  | 3  | 5 | 2 | 6 | 37    |
| TORCH-WADE KELLER                  | -  | 1  | 3 | 6 | 3 | 28    |
| Ringside Reflector-J D McKav       | -  | 1  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 24    |

bulletin of the decade continued

|                               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | total |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Japanese Wrestling Journal    | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 6     |
| Rockwinkol Brigade-Mick Karch | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6     |
| The Informer-Ron Evans        | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 5     |
| Angle                         | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 5     |

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**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Joe Shedlock's Wrestling (4), International Wrestling News (4), Global Wrestling News Service-Tom Burke (3), Ringside Action (2), Chokehold-Lance LeVine (2), Squared Circle-Jamie Ward (1), Wrestling Eye-Mike Bellew (1).

#### SHOCK OF THE DECADE - BRUISER BRODY'S MURDER (7/17/88)

| SHOCK                               | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-------|
| BRODY'S MURDER (7/17/88)            | 28 | 4 | 1 | - | - | 159   |
| MAGNUM TA'S CAR WRECK (10/12/86)    | -  | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 40    |
| KERRY VON ERICH'S AMPUTATION        | 1  | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 39    |
| ADRIAN ADONIS' DEATH (7/4/88)       | -  | 4 | 5 | 1 | - | 33    |
| DAVID VON ERICH'S DEATH (2/10/84)   | -  | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 30    |
| WWF's take over of wrestling        | -  | 2 | - | 6 | - | 20    |
| Collapse of AWA                     | 1  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 20    |
| Mike Von Erich's suicide (4/17/87)  | -  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 16    |
| Tommy Rich wins NWA title (4/27/81) | -  | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 13    |
| Sale of UWF to NWA (3/88)           | 2  | - | - | - | 1 | 11    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Otto Wanz wins AWA title (10), Black Saturday-WWF takes over WBTS wrestling slot (7), WWF gets on network/prime time TV (7), Collapse of NWA (5), Ron Garvin wins NWA title (5), Gino Hernandez' death, Ron Shaw defeats David Sammartino (5), Honky Tonk Man wins Intercontinental Title from Steamboat (4), WMIII draws 93,000 (4), Bruno downgrades WWF (4), Paul Boesch's death (3), Jay Youngblood's death (3), Mulkie Brothers beat Gladiators (3), AWA hires Dale Gagner (3), Kerry Von Erich wins NWA title (3), Collapse of regional promotions (3), Harley Race wins NWA title [6/10/83] (2), Iron Sheik wins WWF title (2), Windham turns heel (2), Rhodes jumps to WWF (2), Hulk Hogan jumps to WWF (2), Andre wins WWF title (1), Riki Choshu jumps to New Japan (1), Warrior wins I-C title (1), Lex Luger's improvement (1), Nikita Koloff turns babyface (1).

#### ANGLE OF THE DECADE - ANDRE-HOGAN 1988 - TWIN REFS

| ANGLE                                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| ANDRE BEATS HOGAN-TWIN REFS 1988              | 8 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 65    |
| FUNK BEATS UP FLAIR 1989                      | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 58    |
| ORNDORFF TURNS HEEL ON HOGAN 1986             | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | - | 53    |
| ZBYSZKO TURNS ON SAMMARTINO 1980              | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 27    |
| FLAIR'S RETIREMENT 1983                       | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | 25    |
| Tatum/Hyatt/Gilbert triangle 1986             | - | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | 24    |
| Midnight Express vs Original Midnight Express | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 22    |
| Piper vs Snuka 1984                           | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 16    |
| Andre turns on Hogan 1987                     | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 13    |
| Freebirds turn on Von Erichs 1982             | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11    |
| Lawler gets haircut with Idol/Rich            | - | - | 3 | - | 2 | 11    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Snuka turns babyface with Buddy Rogers vs Lou Albano 1982 (9), Savage turns heel on Hogan 1989 (8), formation of Four Horsemen 1986 (7), Hennig vs Lawler retirement match 1988 (6), Piper turns babyface in Georgia 1982 (5), Gilbert turns on Rich in New Fabulous Ones 1984 (5), Pritchard & Dirty White Girl 1988 (5), Windham turns heel 1988 (5), Sunshine turns babyface 1984 (4), Gilbert and Dangerously beat on Pez Whatley & son 1988 (4), Lawler unifies CWA/AWA titles 1988 (4), Lawler vs Gilbert 1987 (4), Rich returns to Georgia 1981 (4), Freebirds injure Ted DiBiase 1981 (4), Steamboat returns to NWA 1989 (3), Midnight Express turns babyface 1988 (3), Nightmares' car/baseball bat 1987 (3), Tennessee vs Texas 1988 (3), Saito vs Inoki on Island 1988 (2), Jim Garvin and Precious as David Von Erich's valet for a day 1983 (2), Watts buried under USSR flag 1986 (2), Sawyer loses hair 1982 (2), Baby Doll turns heel 1986 (2), Flair turns heel 1985 (2), Kharma as Midnight Rider 1984 (2) Savage turns babyface and forms megapowers 1987 (1), Taylor turns heel 1987 (1), Bundy turns on Road Warriors and Ellering 1984 (1).

#### FEUD OF THE DECADE - FREEBIRDS VS VON ERICHS 1982-84

| FEUD                               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| FREEBIRDS VS VON ERICH 1982-84     | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 56    |
| BRODY VS ABDULLAH 1980'S           | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 51    |
| SAMMARTINO VS ZBYSZKO 1980         | 5 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 50    |
| FLAIR VS FUNK 1989                 | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 29    |
| FLAIR VS STEAMBOAT 1981-84, 89     | 2 | - | 3 | 4 | 2 | 29    |
| Tiger Mask vs Dynamite Kid 1982-83 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 25    |
| Lawler vs Dundee                   | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 25    |



|                                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | total |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Rock & Roll Express vs Midnight Express 1984-86 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | 16    |
| Idol vs Rich 1980                               | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 15    |
| Hogan vs Savage 1985-86, 89                     | - | 2 | - | 3 | - | 14    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Slaughter vs Patterson 1981 (13), Lawler vs Idol/Rich 1987 (13), Hogan vs Orndorff 1984, 86 (12), Snuka vs Muraco 1983 (12), Hogan vs Andre 1987-89 (10), Piper vs Hogan 1984-86 (10), DiBiase vs Freebirds 1980, 86 (9), Choshu vs Fujinami 1983 (9), Flair vs Rhodes 1984-88 (9), Valentine-Piper 1983 (9), Steamboat vs Savage 1986-87 (8), Slaughter vs Sheik 1984 (8), Midnight Express vs Fantastics 1988 (6), Brainbusters vs Rockers 1989 (6), Steamboat/Youngblood vs Sgt Slaughter/Kernodle 1983 (5), Casas vs Del Santo 1986-87 (4), Savage vs Lawler 1984 (4), Lawler vs Gilbert 1987-88 (4), Flair vs Race 1983-85 (4), Piper vs Snuka 1984 (4), Inoki vs Saito 1988 (3), Hogan vs Schults 1983-84 (3), Duggan vs DiBiase 1984-85 (3), Flair vs Luger 1988 (3), Flair vs Piper 1982 (3), Lawler vs Kerry Von Erich 1988 (3), Midnight Express vs Original Midnight Express 1988-89 (2), Murdoch vs Sawyer (2), Stevens vs Bockwinkel 1981 (1), Les Thorton vs Jerry Brisco 1980-81 (1), Rich vs Sawyer 1983 (1), Taylor vs Adams 1987-88 (1), Piper vs Orndorff 1985 (1).

#### WORST INTERVIEW OF THE DECADE - STEVE "DR. DEATH" WILLIAMS

| INTERVIEWEE              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| DR. DEATH STEVE WILLIAMS | 8 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 36    |
| GEORGE THE ANIMAL STEELE | 6 | 6 | 2 | - | - | 32    |
| ULTIMATE WARRIOR         | 4 | 2 | 4 | - | - | 20    |
| MIKE VON ERICH           | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | 15    |
| JIMMY SNUKA              | 3 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 14    |
| Kerry Von Erich          | 1 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 13    |
| Junk Yard Dog            | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 8     |
| Sting                    | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 8     |
| Thunderbolt Patterson    | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 8     |
| Andre the Giant          | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 5     |
| Rufus R. Jones           | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | 5     |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Hulk Hogan (6), Kevin Von Erich (4), Robert Gibson (4), Baron Von Raschke (4), Verne Gagne (4), Jim Duggan (2), Nikita Koloff (2), Sheik Adnon Al-Kaissey (2), Pez Whatley (2), Ricky Morton (1), Mike Von Erich (1), Bob Backlund (1), Colonel DeBeers (1), Ricky Santana (1), Angelo Mosca (1).

#### WORST MANAGER OF THE DECADE - MR. FUJI

| MANAGER           | 1  | 2 | 3 | TOTAL |
|-------------------|----|---|---|-------|
| MR FUJI           | 11 | 6 | 1 | 50    |
| FRENCHIE MARTIN   | 3  | 6 | 6 | 31    |
| PAUL JONES        | 4  | 3 | 6 | 23    |
| ADNON AL-KAISSEY  | 3  | 5 | 4 | 23    |
| CYNDI LAUPER      | 3  | 3 | 1 | 16    |
| Downtown Bruno    | 2  | - | - | 6     |
| Oliver Humperdink | 1  | 1 | - | 5     |
| Skandor Akbar     | 1  | - | 1 | 4     |
| J. D. Costello    | 1  | - | 1 | 4     |
| Marcial Bovee     | -  | 1 | 2 | 4     |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Tojo Yamamoto (3), Baby Doll (3), Percy Pringle (3), Gary Hart (3), Slick (3), J.R. Hogg (2), Fred Blassie (2), Sam Kent (2), Paul E Dangerously (2), J.R. Foley (1), Buddy Rogers (1), Izzy Slapowitz (1), Jimmy Holiday (1).

#### WORST GIMMICK OF THE DECADE - GEORGE STEELE

| GIMMICK PERFORMER        | 1 | 2 | 3 | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|-------|
| GEORGE THE ANIMAL STEELE | 9 | 6 | 3 | 42    |
| ADORABLE ADRIAN ADONIS   | 8 | 1 | 4 | 30    |
| RED ROOSTER              | 5 | 6 | 4 | 29    |
| CORPORAL KIRSCHNER       | 2 | 3 | 5 | 17    |
| DING DONGS               | 3 | - | 3 | 12    |
| Outback Jack             | 2 | 1 | - | 8     |
| Hillbilly Jim            | - | 2 | 4 | 8     |
| Uncle Elmer              | - | 2 | 3 | 7     |
| The Monster              | 1 | 1 | - | 5     |
| Machines                 | 1 | 1 | - | 5     |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** "666" (4), Akeem (3), Midnight Rider (3), Nicolai Volkoff (3), Bushwhackers (2), Rick Steiner (2), Polish Prince (2), Blue Blazer (2), Missing Link (2), Russian Assassin (2), Honkytonk Man (2), Botswana Beast (2), Sgt Slaughter (1), Brutus Beefcake (1), Mighty Wilbur (1), Verne Gagne (1), Mighty Joe Thunder (1).

#### WRESTLING JOURNALIST OF THE DECADE - DAVE MELTZER

| JOURNALIST    | 1  | 2  | 3 | TOTAL |
|---------------|----|----|---|-------|
| DAVE MELTZER  | 27 | 2  | 2 | 87    |
| JON GALLAGHER | 1  | 13 | 8 | 37    |
| BILL APTER    | 4  | 6  | 6 | 31    |
| ED GAREA      | -  | 5  | 3 | 13    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** George Napolitano (3), Steve Beverly (3), Craig Peters (3), Paul E. Dangerously/Paul Heyman (2), Coach Kurt (2), Joe Shedlock (2), Mick Karch (2), Sean Grande (2), Norman Keitzer (2), Don Liable (2), Bob Closson (1).

(22), Rick Rude (17), Terry Gordy (16), Andre the Giant (15), Honky Tonk Man (12), Nikita Koloff (12), Adrian Adonis (12), Jerry Blackwell (11), Lex Luger (10), Eddie Gilbert (9), Barry Windham (7), Colonel DeBeers (7), Road Warriors (7), Nick Bockwinkel (6), Buddy Roberts (6), Jimmy Snuka (6), Buzz Sawyer (4), Iron Sheik (3), Jerry Lawler (2), Greg Valentine (1), Greg Gagne (1).

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# MATCH OF THE DECADE - RICK STEAMBOAT VS RIC FLAIR (March 7, 1989)

| date     | MATCH                           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | TOTAL |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| 05/07/89 | RIC FLAIR VS RICK STEAMBOAT     | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 112   |
| 12/25/82 | RIC FLAIR VS KERRY VON ERICH    | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 106   |
| 08/05/82 | TIGER MASK VS DYNAMITE KID      | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1 | 94    |
| 03/29/87 | RICK STEAMBOAT VS RANDY SAVAGE  | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 65    |
| 05/29/84 | RICK STEAMBOAT VS RIC FLAIR     | 1 | 6 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 61    |
| 06/28/82 | Bob Backlund vs Jimmy Snuka     | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 53    |
| 02/20/89 | Ric Flair vs Rick Steamboat     | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 51    |
|          | Choshu/Yatsu vs Tsuruta/Tenryu  | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | 41    |
| 11/24/83 | Ric Flair vs Harley Race        | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 40    |
| 06/12/86 | Akira Maeda vs Tatsumi Fujinami | 1 | - | 1 | - | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 35    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Flair vs Steamboat 4/2/89 (34), Slaughter vs Iron Sheik 6/16/84 (34), Flair vs Windham 1/20/87 (32), Flair vs Windham 2/14/86 (31), Tiger Mask vs Dynamite Kid 8/30/82 (23), Tiger Mask vs Kunaki Kobayashi 6/12/85 (22), Hansen/Brody vs Funks 12/18/82 (21), Choshu vs Fujinami 8/5/83 (19), Patterson vs Slaughter 5/4/81 (19), Hennig vs Bockwinkel 12/86 (18), Flair vs Sting 3/27/87 (15), Snuka vs Muraco 10/17/83 (14), Tiger Mask vs Dynamite Kid 8/22/82 (14), Brody vs Abdullah 12/25/86 (13), Savage vs DiBiase 6/25/88 (13), War Games I 7/4/87 (13), Sammartino vs Zbyszko 8/9/80 (10), Flair vs Kerry Von Erich 5/6/84 (9), Fantastics vs Sheeherders 4/20/86 (8), Rock and Roll Express vs Koloffs 11/28/85 (8), Sammartino vs Zbyszko 2/5/80 (8), Steamboat/Youngblood vs Slaughter/Kernodle 3/12/83 (8), Brody vs Nord 6/30/88, Negro Casa vs Hiro Del Santo 7/87 (7), Fantastics vs Midnight Express 3/27/88 (7), Inoki vs Saito Island match 1988 (7), Lawler vs k. Von Erich 12/13/88 (7), Piper vs Sammartino 2/8/86 (7), Tenryu/Hara vs Tsuruta/Yatsu 8/30/88 (7), DiBiase vs Duggan 3/31/85 (6), Fantastics vs Midnight Express 7/11/88 (6), Fujinami vs Guerrero 8/9/80 (6), Hogan/Savage vs Bossman/Akeem 2/3/89 (6), Piper vs Valentine 11/24/83 (6), Rock and Roll Express vs Midnight Express 8/15/86 (6), Savage vs Dynamite Kid 11/7/85 (6), Freebirds vs Road Warriors 9/29/85 (5), Hennig vs Lawler (5/9/88 (5), Tiger Mask vs Jose Estrada 11/22/82 (5), DiBiase vs Williams [no date given] (4), Flair vs K. Von Erich 5/24/84 (4), Ric Flair vs Billy Robinson 1984 (4), Lawler vs Idol 4/21/87 (4), Muraco vs Santana 2/20/84 (4), Muraco vs Steamboat 11/25/85 (4), Rose vs Dynamite Kid 9/83 (4), Davey Boy Smith vs Dynamite Kid 7/84 (4), Backlund vs Patera 5/19/80 (3), Flair vs Luger 12/26/88 (3), Flair vs Rhodes 7/26/86 (3), Orndorff vs Steamboat 9/15/86 (3), Rich vs Sawyer 10/19/83 (3), Rockers vs Brainbusters 1/29/89 (3), Steamboat/Youngblood vs Briscos 11/24/83 (3), Backlund vs Valentine 11/23/81 (2), DiBiase/Williams vs Duggan/Taylor 3/85 (2), Flair vs Armstrong 4/22/87 (2), Flair vs Windham 4/11/87 (2), Freebirds vs Von Erichs 7/4/83 (2), Orton vs Santana 7/23/84 (2), War Games IV 11/25/87 (2), Bulldogs vs Beefcake/Valentine 4/7/86 (1), Flair vs Funk 7/23/89 (1), Flair vs Ron Garvin 9/25/87 (1), Lawler vs Funk [empty arena] 4/21/81 (1), Slaughter vs Iron Sheik 8/14/84 (1), War Games VII [Los Angeles] 8/5/88 (1).

# BEST INTERVIEWEE OF THE DACADE - JIM CORNETTE & RODDY PIPER (TIE)

| INTERVIEWEE        | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | TOTAL |
|--------------------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| JIM CORNETTE       | 12 | 10 | 6 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | - | 215   |
| RODDY PIPER        | 15 | 3  | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 215   |
| RIC FLAIR          | 3  | 13 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | 164   |
| MICHAEL HAYES      | -  | -  | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 80    |
| TERRY FUNK         | -  | 2  | 1 | 3 | - | 5 | 2 | 1 | 54    |
| Bobby Heenan       | 1  | 1  | 2 | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 48    |
| Larry Zbyszko      | 1  | -  | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 45    |
| Kevin Sullivan     | -  | 1  | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 36    |
| Jerry Lawler       | -  | 1  | - | 3 | 1 | - | 3 | 1 | 33    |
| Paul E Dangerously | -  | -  | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 31    |
| Jimmy Garvin       | 1  | -  | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 29    |
| Don Muraco         | -  | -  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 29    |
| Jimmy Hart         | -  | 1  | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | 3 | 28    |
| Jim Duggan         | -  | -  | 2 | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | 21    |
| Ole Anderson       | -  | -  | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 20    |

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Bill Dundee (18), Nick Bockwinkel (18), Dusty Rhodes (13), Austin Idol (13), Ted DiBiase (12), Randy Savage (11), Adrian Adonis (11), Jesse Ventura (10), Road Warriors (8), Lou Albano (7), Johnny Valiant (7), Hulk Hogan (7), Jim Neidhart (6), Dick Murdoch (6), Bruiser Brody (5), Honkeytonk Man (4), Mr. Wrestling II (3), Lex Luger (3), Buddy Roberts (3), Baron Von Raschke (1), King Curtis (1), Paul Orndorff (1), Jerry Blackwell (1).

## THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

## THE EIGHTIES: BLEAK TO THE FUTURE

For all serious wrestling fans, the Eighties was a decade unlike no other decade in quite a while. Everything serious fans held sacred, every convention, was seemingly scattered to the wind. Nothing seemed to make sense; it took some getting used to, this new wrestling. And yet, when we examine wrestling's history, it is not really new. The same sort of phenomenon has taken place in the late Twenties and the late Forties. In this article we will examine the changes wrestling has gone through this decade, how it relates to the changes of the past, and how the changes of the Eighties will affect the wrestling in the Nineties.

Let's begin with the Eighties. The decade began quietly: there were three major wrestling federations in the U.S. plus four strong regional promotions. In fact, the Eighties were simply an extension of the Seventies, and to a great extent, fed off the popularity boom of that decade. Without the Seventies, there would have been no Eighties of change. The years 1962-70 witnessed a great decline in the wrestling audience. It was a slow decline that reached its nadir from 1966-70, when the yearly wrestling attendance averaged a nearly 25% decline from the average of 1955-65. (Source: Pro Sports Encyclopedia, 1971 Edition, Indianapolis, IN) Even such wrestling strongholds as Richmond, Va. and Madison Square Garden in New York City suffered major declines in attendance. Two factors, though, helped a resurgence in the Seventies. One was the introduction of younger champions such as Dory Funk, Jr. and Jack Brisco in the NWA, and, to a lesser extent, Pedro Morales in the WWWF (in Morales' case, the fans were simply sick of Bruno as champion). The second was the virtual disappearance of wrestling from television. In many cases it was relegated to UHF channels, which, during the Sixties and early Seventies, were practically impossible to receive on the television sets of that day.

We must keep in mind through all of this that wrestling is not so much a sport as a cultural phenomenon, much closer to rock and roll than the NFL. Unlike major sports, it was rarely covered in the sports pages. If there was a story on wrestling, it was usually negative. With no coverage in the media, wrestling thus became ripe for a re-discovery by a new generation of fans for whom it would be new and completely fresh. This is exactly what happened in 1974, and the catalyst once again was television. A new wrestling group, known as the IWA, bought time on several VHF stations in the eastern U.S. The sudden competition forced established promotions such as Crockett and the WWWF to upgrade their product and make the switch to a more visible presence. A new public began to tune in and become hooked. Attendance went up; Madison Square Garden drew record crowds, Boston Garden began to sell out once again. The

Crockett territories saw a substantial rise in attendance, especially with their new star, Ric Flair, as the lead heel. Florida boomed behind the Dusty Rhodes phenomenon. The promotion of wrestling also witnessed a change: Rival promotions were cooperating with one another in talent trades and respectful of each other's territory. The WWWF now actually recognized the existence of the AWA and NWA. Verne Gagne was booked into Madison Square Garden as AWA champ for a match versus Nicolai Volkoff. Harley Race, the NWA champ, was even given supremacy over Bob Backlund, WWWF champ, in the WWWF programs. It began to look for a while as if this new cooperation would lead to a new umbrella organization in which the NWA champ would be recognized as world's champ, and each territory would keep their champ as a sort of regional champion. This was infinitely preferable, given the shark-like nature of wrestling promoters, to the old saw promulgated by half-witted wrestling magazine editors for a "Super Bowl of Wrestling" in which the three major champions would compete in a wrestle-off for a unified world belt. In reality, this had about as much chance of coming off as Andre the Giant had of playing for the Washington Redskins. Of course, the editors of the magazines knew this as well, but it did give them something to dribble about in their lurid pages. No, cooperation of any sort benefitted the fan far more than the lack of such, and it seemed like the idyllic world would last forever as we came into the Eighties. But the Eighties would see the dominance of one man, a man who would shatter the conventions of wrestling and almost conquer the world of wrestling. You already know who I mean, so I might as well come clean: Vince McMahon, Jr.

McMahon came from a wrestling family. His father, Vince Sr., and grandfather, Jess, were also wrestling promoters. Junior at one time nursed a strong desire to become a wrestler himself, but was thoroughly discouraged by his father. Instead, he was eased into the promotional end of the business, replacing Bill Cardille and the late Ray Morgan as announcer on the television shows in the mid-Seventies. As the years passed, Junior's influence and power grew. After all, he was the son of the promoter, and wrestling is to a large extent a family business; so it seemed only natural that he would rise in the organization. However, Junior also entered another business that would influence his perception of professional wrestling. He became a rock and roll promoter. While promoting rock concerts in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, Junior saw (to his everlasting credit and our everlasting concern) that wrestling was closer to rock and roll than to actual sport. Now this is nothing new, nor original on McMahon's part. Jerry Jarrett and Jerry Lawler already saw this connection in Memphis and tailored their wrestling shows accordingly. Most serious fans would wince when reading the news from Memphis, little realizing that this would indeed be the wave of the future. McMahon differed from Jarrett and Lawler in that he thought big and they thought regionally. (At one point, Vince used to employ Cal Rudman, self-proclaimed rock expert and journalist as his co-host when broadcasting the MSG matches.) Once Vince Sr. retired, he turned the business over to Junior. Now Junior could put his plan into

action at last.

However, in the beginning, Junior started small. He bought out the failed L.A. promotions of Gene and Mike LaBell and established a west-coast market for the WWF. As the MSG matches had been shown in L.A. for years, it was not as if a radical change was being made. If McMahon thought L.A. could once again be made into a wrestling hotbed such as it was in the late Forties and Fifties, he underestimated how seriously the LaBells had burned the territory. Though L.A. would occasionally draw a sellout crowd, and though attendance was better under McMahon than LaBell, the City of Angels would not again be a wrestling hub. The Hispanic fans merely attended Lucha Libre independent shows while the young yuppie crowd McMahon desired simply thought wrestling too gauche for their taste.

Rival promoters did not look kindly on McMahon's California conquest, but realized that almost anything was better than the LaBell Medicine Show. Besides, the territory was so wasted that McMahon would have a hard enough time just surviving there. It wasn't seen as a threat, but his next move was. Sam Muchnick had promoted in St. Louis for close to forty years, building the territory, fighting off challenges from rivals such as Lou Thesz, and acting as professional wrestling's "spokesman" and ambassador of good will. He also helped found the National Wrestling Alliance, an organization which ended the wrestling wars of the late Forties, and brought peace and harmony to the wrestling world into the Eighties. By 1981, Sam had decided to hang it up. The new force in the NWA was the Crockett family, who secured the NWA belt for Ric Flair. (One of the overlooked stories of this time was the fact that Ted DiBiase had already been selected by Muchnick to become the next champ. It was a tribute to the rising power of the Crocketts and Muchnick's declining power that Flair won out.) Once Sam actually retired, McMahon saw the territory as open and began to compete. He was helped by the fact that his competition was in the form of Verne Gagne and Pat O'Connor, a twosome that wouldn't last long against McMahon. McMahon also learned something else from all this, something much more important than the fact he could outmaneuver the likes of Gagne and O'Connor. He learned that if he was to expand nationwide, he needed a better draw as champion than Bob Backlund; otherwise he would be repeating the same mistake that Eddie Einhorn and the IWA made. McMahon's plan to go nationwide was tried in the mid-Seventies by Einhorn and the IWA, but Einhorn goofed when he chose Mil Mascaras as champion. Mascaras always drew well in L.A., but couldn't draw flies in non-Hispanic areas. This, in turn, caused the IWA to go belly-up, although Einhorn might have been able to turn it around if he really wished, but his heart was set on buying the White Sox, not in wrestling. Told by baseball owners that he couldn't have both, his choice was easy. McMahon knew Backlund had limited appeal. A new champion was needed if he was to compete big-time.

As we all know by now, McMahon found his champion in one Hulk Hogan. A former employee of the WWF in 1978-79 (when Junior bought the promotion from his father in 1982, one of the first things he did was shorten the acronym by one 'W' to make it easier for the public to remember), Hogan played the big silent heel. A trip to

the AWA in the early Eighties turned him into a walking, talking babyface, and an immensely popular one at that. Of course, Verne didn't have the slightest idea of what to do with the big lug, even though he was drawing turn-away crowds. Unfortunately for Verne, Vince did. What Hogan wanted was to be the champ. No problem for Vince, he'll just get rid of Backlund. Hogan defeated Backlund's successor, the Iron Sheik, in January, 1984, to become champ. Now Vince could go big time. The addition of Paul Orndorff and Roddy Piper also helped. Piper was a coup for Vince; his big mouth stirred fan interest. Not since the days of Wild Red Berry was there someone in the WWF who could really talk. Orndorff gave Hogan his first huge challenger. From this point on, the contenders for Hogan's belt got bigger and bigger.

It was not enough to have a charismatic champion; he must be well-exposed to the public. It was here that Vince began to fully exploit the power of television. In order to make the WWF the number one promotion, he had to make it such in the minds of the fans across the country. So he began buying time at television stations across the country for his television matches. Vince also horned in on cable, taking notice that "Georgia Championship Wrestling" on WTBS was very popular with viewers. Vince managed to get his shows on the USA network, first by taking over the Southwest Championship Wrestling slot when that promotion went bankrupt. Vince called the show "All-American Wrestling" and began by highlighting various promotions across the country. Still he was playing by the rules.

What caused Vince to break the rules was a transgression committed against him. Ole Anderson, the head of the Georgia promotions, decided to cash in on the popularity of the television show by promoting in other areas of the country. He mainly chose areas that were unclaimed, such as Ohio, here no strong promotion had staked a claim. But he also chose to promote in WWF territory, no doubt spurred on by other promoters in the NWA. This may have been a way to teach Vince a lesson for invading St. Louis. However, in the St. Louis scenario, the territory was pretty much up for grabs; Anderson was clearly declaring war. Vince countered by purchasing the controlling interest in Georgia Championship Wrestling from under Ole's nose. Now Vince was on WTBS as well as MSG and USA. Ted Turner liked this about as much as having his yacht shelled by the Navy and dumped Vince in favor of Jim Crockett. Crockett had one thing going for him in his bid to become Number One: fresh talent and Ric Flair. He also had one major obstacle in his way: his own booker, Dusty Rhodes. Rhodes had been a booker once before in Florida and turned that territory from a prosperous gold mine into a desolate ghost town. In the Eighties, he would do the same for the Crocketts. We can't give Virgil all the blame, though, for Crockett failed to adapt to Vince's new style of promoting and fell too far behind to catch up to the WWF. Consider that Crockett (when Dory Funk Jr. was the booker) came up with the first closed-circuit extravaganza: Starrcade. But Vince easily outdid him with Wrestlemania in 1985 and each year thereafter; if not in financial success, certainly in public awareness, which can be even more important, especially where the future is concerned. And what about Verne? Vince killed him off as

a threat by promoting in the AWA territory with Hogan as champ. Hogan still maintained his huge popularity in AWA-land. Verne didn't understand it in 1983, he didn't understand it in 1985, and he may still not understand it today.

Since that first Wrestlemania, Vince has been on a winning streak. He incorporated rock and wrestling both at the arena, with the addition of Cyndi Lauper (brought in because of her friendship with Lou Albano) and her manager Dave Wolff for a short-lived period, and the introduction of the "Hulk Hogan's Rock n' Wrestling" cartoon that wound up influencing Vince much more than he influenced it. (Also remember that Hogan began employment as a rock bassist.) Vince has expanded his television, with more PPV events and the successful "Saturday Night's Main Event" on NBC. He also tried movies this year, although he came a cropper in that department. Nevertheless, the WWF was the most influential promotion by far in the Eighties. Japan had better wrestling, but Japan stayed in Japan for the most part. Vince plastered his puss wherever he could get a gig, be it Saudi Arabia, Italy, or England. He also hit it big in the marketing arena, hawking everything from Hulk Hogan t-shirts to fake title belts to ice cream bars to singing wrestlers on record. This had all been done before, but never on such a large and organized scale, and never by the parent organization itself.

But at what cost? There is a price for everything; the price Vince paid was the total abandonment of pretense and the adoption of a cartoonish style aimed no longer at the adult male wrestling fan, but at the 7 to 16 year old male wrestling fan. What Vince did was to plant his tongue firmly in his cheek and give a sly wink to the audience. Before Vince, the "business" was sacrosanct: the slightest hint of impropriety or whisper of reality was tantamount to heresy. Wrestlers who had exposed the business in the past found themselves alone and friendless. Now here came a promoter who exposed the business, and on television yet. Remember the now-famous John Stossel report on ABC's "20/20"? Although the thing we tend to remember most was Dr. David Schultz smacking Stossel in the ear, the thing I most remembered was Vince answering Stossel's question as to whether wrestling was fake by stating that wrestling was not a sport, but rather "sports-entertainment". His demeanor all but gave the impression that he thought wrestling to be sham and that he was truly cut out for better things. Later that year, in testimony before the New Jersey State Legislature on whether professional wrestling should be deregulated in New Jersey, McMahon's employees testified that wrestling was an illusion of combat for the enjoyment of the paying audience. This admission was reported in all three New York dailies, and, by the way, did not hurt business. In a very large sense, Vince won. He continued to create cartoon characters such as the Ultimate Warrior, Sensational Sherri, Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake, ad nauseam. For the first time in the history of the game, professional wrestling was now aimed at the kiddie market.

How did Crockett respond? To his credit, he refused to be caught up in McMahon's game. To do otherwise would be to admit that McMahon was the pacesetter, and although it was evident that this

was truly the case, for Crockett to formally or informally admit it would have been disastrous. Unfortunately, Crockett relied too heavily on his booker, Dusty Rhodes, whose style could best be said to be a combination of good ol'boy folksy down-home rassling and mondo bizarro. The idea of having Ric Flair mistake Ronnie Garvin in drag for Jimmy Garvin's valet Precious was not only a gross humiliation to the NWA champion, but an exercise in stupidity. These sort of skits, more than anything else, would cost the NWA both credibility and fan support. Crockett enjoyed the support of the hard-core fans and Ted Turner, but the mainstream of fans and the all-important media preferred the WWF. The WWF was slick while the NWA was stodgy. The WWF had memorable characters; the NWA had too many southern boys, not good in a national promotion. Even the NWA's style of promotion was all wrong: it promoted like a regional promotion, which was all well and good if the market was regional. To use this style and aim at a national market was disaster. It would only help seal Vince's standing as most popular.

Yet, although Vince was certainly the beneficiary of the popularity of wrestling, he was by no means responsible for it. No, he merely exploited it, and exploited it well, probably stretching it beyond its natural limits. Wrestling a cyclical sport, experiencing periods of boom and bust throughout its history. It was small-time in the early Twenties. Then the introduction of college football players gave it life. This cycle lasted until the early Thirties, then the public tired of it all. Madison Square Garden did not host any wrestling matches from 1939 until 1948. With the post-war boom came television. Wrestling boomed again, this time the prosperity continued until the early Sixties. The present boom, as mentioned before, began in the Seventies. It will end in the Nineties, a victim of television overkill and fan apathy. Wrestling will still continue, but will go back to limited coverage, small arenas and regional promotion. Television overkill caused the decline of wrestling in the fifties and will again be the catalyst here. There is a limit as to just how much televised wrestling the public can take without getting sick. There are too many PPV events, but with the increased arena rent and less wrestlers, PPV will be the way to go in the Nineties. PPV events will hurt attendance at live shows. Ringside for Madison Square Garden is now \$18.00. A family of four would spend \$72.00 just for the show alone - this does not include such sundries as parking, transportation, food, etc. The same family of four can pay only \$19.95 and watch a better show in the comfort of their own home. They can invite friends or relatives they never want to see again to share their suffering. PPV shows are always better because the medium is still new and the promoters want the viewers to keep coming back for more. If a regular Garden show cost \$19.95 on PPV, Vince would never see those people again. Since there will be fewer wrestlers in the future, there will be less of a need for all those arena shows.

Why will there be less wrestlers? For the simple reason that there are less promotions, and when these promotions constrict in the Nineties, they will be forced to keep less wrestlers. One of the side effects of the wrestling wars has been the restriction on



movement of wrestlers. Promotions now keep the same wrestlers, trying to dream up new gizmos for them long after they go stale. Of course, all this is moot anyway, since with cable television one can see most of the wrestlers currently working this country and Canada. The only novelty left would be to televise Japanese wrestling, but we are so xenophobic and paranoid about the Japanese to boot that we could not take another instance of them taking something American and doing it better. It's bad enough they take our basic inventions, make them better, and reap huge profits selling them to us. No, let's not even think about it.

Where will new wrestlers come from? It will depend on where the current phenomenon of bigger and bigger wrestlers leads. If it continues at the present pace, the day will come when Hulk Hogan will be classified as a midget wrestler. But there will come a day I am not looking forward to when a wrestler will die of a steroid caused illness, either in the ring or outside. Then we will see the usual media shenanigans: articles in all the papers, publicity-seeking congressmen holding hearing after hearing, Donald Trump offering to clean up the game by purchasing all the promotions, and so on, and so on. In the end, nothing will happen. If the fans decide they are sick of steroid behemoths, smaller and more agile college wrestlers will emerge. If not, things will go on as before. I'm betting on the latter because of the close ties between kids and wrestling. So, my prediction (don't ever take these to the bank folks; I'm about as accurate as Jimmy the Greek) is that things will pretty much stay the same, albeit on a smaller scale.

Besides Vince McMahon, the other major phenomenon of the Eighties has been the emergence of Dave Meltzer. Before Mr. Meltzer, the major source of wrestling news outside one's local area was the fan club or fan bulletin. Most were inaccurate and treated wrestling as real. The best of the lot were Uncle Bert Ray's Matmania from the Sixties and Tom Burke's Global Wrestling. Though these bulletins were highly accurate and informative, they still adhered to certain rules of wrestling: Never give away too much and protect the business. Along comes Meltzer in 1982 and throws all those rules out the window; making a fortune doing so. In a very real sense, Meltzer is the flip side of Vince McMahon. McMahon made his empire basically denying wrestling is a sport and calling it entertainment. Meltzer has built his empire in the same way, though he is far less devious and sneaky about it. Dave Meltzer would never last as a wrestling promoter, he is too honest and fair-minded. But at what he does, reporting wrestling, Meltzer has no peer. He turned the job of wrestling journalism into real journalism, enraging both promoters and promoter wanna-bes in the process. He has done the near impossible: making wrestling seem almost respectable. He has encouraged by his example a new breed of wrestling bulletin, more honest and accurate. Without him, the bulletin would still exist, but who would know about them?

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MEMORIES OF THE EIGHTIES  
by Jon Gallagher

The past ten years have seen more changes in the sport of professional wrestling than any other ten years previous. Recapping every change would be next to impossible; instead, I've decided to go with the things that stand out most in my own mind.

Growing up in the middle of Illinois, we had always been an AWA territory. From the sixties through the seventies, Verne Gagne ran his brand of wrestling in towns within a fifty mile radius at least twice a month. He pulled out of the market in the late seventies due to dwindling crowds in both Peoria and the Quad Cities.

I got married in 1982 and had cable TV installed in our new apartment. WTBS was one of the available channels and for the first time, I got to see what the Apter mags had been talking about for so long: the NWA. I remember the old Georgia show and how something happened nearly every week. My earliest memory was Ole Anderson coming out and talking about his tag team partner Stan Hansen and how He, Ole, was the backbone of the team. He didn't realize that Hansen was in the dressing room and was hearing every word he said. It might not have been much of an angle, but this was just one of the few that was broadcast over a three or four week period. The AWA in the same amount of time would have done MAYBE one angle.

Prior to getting the NWA on TBS, our cable system at my home had the USA-MSG network which broadcast matches from Madison Square Garden, the Capital Center in Landover, MD and the Spectrum in Philadelphia. It was my first experience with the WWF. I was amazed that they would show something other than squash matches on TV. Verne never did that sort of thing unless he was setting up an angle. The thing I remember most about those shows was the champion they had, Bob Backlund. It seemed that he was always getting the snot kicked out of him and somehow, he pulled a trick out of somewhere and ended up the winner, albeit a battered one.

Cable TV brought much more wrestling in to my life than I realized existed. There was a bloody show on called Southwest Championship Wrestling. One of the Chicago channels still carried Verne's stuff. Another Chicago channel carried some independent stuff from Bob Luce. TBS gave us the NWA and the USA network provided the WWF.

Then one Saturday morning, things changed forever. My wife called me at work and told me that wrestling was on WFLD, channel 32 out of Chicago. They had never carried wrestling before and this was somewhat of a surprise. I asked who the wrestlers were and she told me that Ivan Putski and Andre the Giant were the only ones she recognized. It was the WWF. She taped the show for me and when I got around to watching it later on in the day, I had some questions that needed answered.

Why was the WWF on in Chicago? Why did they tape this show in St Louis, a stronghold for the NWA. What was Hulk Hogan doing there; the AWA was still advertsing him working for them!

What we were about to witness without knowing it was the expansion of Titan Sports. It wasn't long until local channels were once again carrying the AWA and that combined with the NWA gave me all the wrestling I could ever want. Or so I thought.

Probably the thing that stands out in my mind the most about the 80's was 7/14/84. I tuned in for the Saturday Night version of Georgia Championship wrestling and was welcomed to the program by Freddie Miller who said, "Hello, everybody, on behalf of WTBS, I'd

like to welcome Vince McMahon and the WWF. Exciting new matches..."

I was thunderstruck. We had just bought a new house and part of the reason behind the purchase was to have a spot to put a satellite dish. We had rejected several houses more in our price range because they didn't have a clear shot at the southwest horizon. This house did and the dish was just a few weeks away from being installed. Now, Vince McMahon was showing reruns of his matches on WTBS, the only source for NWA wrestling from satellites.

Without access to the wrestling underground at that time, I had no idea what had happened. I was one of the many callers to WTBS both Saturday and Monday in an attempt to find out what had happened. I couldn't get any answers there, so I tried the next best thing: I called the Apter folks and got even less far than I had with the WTBS people. I remember wishing that there was a source of wrestling information that would give the truth in a timely fashion. A year and a half later I would start Wrestling Forum.

In August, the WWF struck another blow. They bought the AWA's local timeslot out from under them. In my first real experience with the AWA office I called to find out why they had been pulled from their slot on WQAD-TV. In typical AWA fashion, they didn't realize that they had lost their time slot to another wrestling promotion. I even got my first chance ever to speak with Verne Gagne personally and instead of being concerned about losing the time slot, he was more concerned about telling me about the making of the movie "Bad Guys" which featured some of the AWA wrestlers and about some negotiations with ESPN.

Other than the expansion of the WWF, there are other memories that are chiseled in my brain as well.

I'll never forget the chilling phone call that I got one Sunday afternoon from Bob Closson. I'd forgotten to take the answering machine off after church. We had friends visiting from out of town and the Forum was printed and ready to mail the next morning so when the phone rang, I was just going to let it go. The machine clicked on and I could hear Bob leaving the message, "I just wanted to call and let you know that Bruiser Brody died last night..."

I nearly hurt myself getting to the nearest phone. My hair still stands on end as I recall how Bob related the story of his murder that July afternoon. Our friends from out of town were not wrestling fans, yet even they could sense that this was not a normal tid bit of wrestling news.

We immediately printed up several slips of paper with the bare essentials noted. We spent a better part of the afternoon inserting those slips into the ready to mail bulletins. The night was a long one, fielding phone calls from fans wondering if the rumor they had heard was true. I called the Windy City offices and let them know because Frank was to have worked their next card.

No one knew at the time the far reaching effects of Brody's murder. They still cannot be measured to this day. Who can say what shape some of the smaller independents would be in now if Brody had continued to work for them. Who can say what would have happened if Ted Turner would have signed him. Or Vince McMahon.

I'd have to list the two conventions that we attended/organized as the absolute highlight of the decade on a personal level. The first was in Memphis, and looking back, it's almost as if we were in a dream rather than there.

The first and foremost thing I remember about Memphis was meeting readers from across the country who had previously only been a distinctive voice on the phone. I'll never forget popping out of an ice cold swimming pool to shake hands with John McAdam and Randy Smith. Or being intimidated by Ron LeMieux and Dan Reilly. Or shaking hands and burrying the hatchet with John Lanigan. Or meeting other married

couples like JD McKay and his wife and Mike Matteson and his spouse.

Picking up Lou Thesz from the airport was also memorable. It was also quite a learning experience.

Being from farm country, I didn't realize that picking someone up from a big airport would be any different from Peoria. In Peoria, you go to the terminal, wait for the plane to land, then go to which ever gate it pulls up to. It's that simple. The fact that the name of the airport in Memphis contained the word INTERNATIONAL in its name never made me think that I might need a flight number or anything else other than time of arrival.

After almost getting arrested for pulling into a restricted Military Zone, we were more than an hour late to pick up Mr. Thesz and had no idea where he might be or what airline he took to get there. We found him, finally, and the half hour trip back to the hotel with him in the front seat and Al Costello of the Fabulous Kangaroos in the back seat was an experience that few will ever know. I felt quite privileged to sit there with my mouth shut, listen, and wondering where the Hell we were. No one even noticed that I got lost on the way back to the hotel.

Other special guests at our first convention included Paul E. Dangerously, Eddie Gilbert and Missy Hyatt. Paul turned out to be one of the funniest individuals we could have ever thought about bringing in. Eddie and Missy were gracious and very willing to pose for pictures with anyone who asked.

My first meeting with this trio was a little awkward to say the least. We had been up late the evening before and were roused out of bed early that day. I had gone up to my room to lie down for just a few minutes to try to get rid of a tremendous headache, but that few minutes turned into about a two hour nap. The phone jolted me awake and someone on the other end was screaming something about me getting down to the lobby immediatly. Hair rumbled, shirt askew, and eyes half shut from lack of sleep, I headed for the lobby. Imagine my chagrin when the elevator door opened and there I stood, confronted by our special guests. I thought about passing myself off as someone else and going back upstairs to make myself presentable, but someone grabbed me first and introduced me to Paul, Eddie and Missy. I guess from their reaction, they're used to meeting people who look like they've been drug through a knothole backwards.

And of course, Convention 88 was my first face to face meeting with super-editor, Dave Meltzer. Yes, folks, he really does exist. A word to the wise...if you party with Dave, save up all the energy you can for about a month before. You'll need it.

Convention 89 was a bit more relaxed for me despite the AWA ignoring the fact that they had \$3000 of our money to put on a show which never came about. This time, we were fortunate enough to meet Nick Bockwinkel, Jonny Stewart, Freebird Buddy Robert, Johnny Valaint, Red Bastain, plus a host of Windy City wrestlers. Renewing old friendships was the best part of Convention 89 though.

If I had to pick out an event that shaped the 80's, I'd have to say it was Wrestlemania I. The card wasn't a hot one, as far as workrates go, but the impact that it had will be felt well into the next century.

Wrestlemania I was not available on Pay Per View (or if it was, not on any kind of wide scale basis). We had to drive 60 miles to an auditorium that featured the card on closed circuit, giant screen TV. I probably wouldn't have gone myself, but my father had hinted for two weeks that he'd like to see the card. The topper was when he heard Mean Gene say, "This card won't be on TV. You'll be old and gray before it is." My dad's eyes got real big and he blurted out, "I'm ALREADY old and gray!" How could I resist?

With closed circuit in its infancy, the arena where we attended was still learning about down-links. They failed to pick up the transmission for the Central Time Zone and we had to wait for the west coast transmission. In the meantime, the locals were visiting the beer stand with regular frequency and getting blasted out of their skulls. Many fans were upset and demanded refunds. They thought that the bouts were taking place LIVE in Davenport rather than on closed circuit. Now you know why I occasionally refer to these folks as idiots.

As I drove home, I was trying to remember why I bothered to go. My dad then proclaimed it as the greatest bit of wrestling he had ever seen. Then I remembered.

Over the years that I've done a bulletin, I've gotten calls from quite a few people involved in the business. I've talked with wrestlers, promoters, announcers, managers, jobbers, stars, referees, ticket takers and arena rats. There are wrestlers who have a reputation of talking with the sheets and other wrestlers who won't even acknowledge our existence. I don't think that anything could have prepared me for a phone call I received one night.

I had just printed a story about Jim Crockett promotions filing for bankruptcy. The story turned out to be false, but the story was given to me by no less than six separate individuals. Dave Meltzer was in Japan and there was no way to really check out the story. Even the people at TBS didn't know if the story was true or not.

With the number of people who swore the story was true, added to my own inexperience at handling such a story, plus the folks at TBS not knowing, but having heard the story, we went with it as a rumor. As soon as the bulletin hit the east coast, we started getting phone calls denying the story.

One caller who called to tell me I had made a mistake identified himself like this:

CALLER: Mr. Gallagher, this is Dusty Rhodes.

ME: Right. And I'm Mother Teresa. C'mon, who is this really?

CALLER: My name is Virgil Runnels. I'm sure you've heard of me. I'm Dusty Rhodes.

ME: Okay, Ed. Or is this Sean? Siegel is that you?

CALLER (becoming very irritated and now doing his TV voice): Dis is de Ame'c'n Dreeeeeeam, Dust-tay Rhodz, eeef you weeeellll...

Mr. Rhodes then chastised me for printing erroneous information and suggesting that I check out my stories before printing them. He admitted to the company having a "cash flow problem" but that was it. To this day, I don't know if it really was Dusty, but he sure had me convinced. I'm also not sure what prompted him to call, but he certainly had my undivided attention for four or five minutes before he slammed the phone down in disgust.

Often times when a wrestler calls, it to complain about something I've wrote. Since I've never been a wrestler or been in the ring, it's impossible for me to really know that is going on. I guess that's why I found the experience of being a manager for one night so rewarding in many ways.

Jeff Siegel, who works for an advertising/promotion agency set up a convention for pharmeseudical salesmen that would feature professional wrestling as a theme. He hired Eddie Sharkey to bring in six of his wrestlers to play various roles. Derrick Dukes and Ricky Rice were cast as a babyface tag team, representing one of the product lines of the company holding the convention. The Terminators were set as the heels, competition to the company.

In addition, Johnny Love was to be the baby in a singles match against Larry "the Butcher" Cameron that had the same basic scenario.

Jeff even offered me the chance to manage Larry Cameron for the night, my character also being based on a sleezy salesman for the competition. Running around at ringside, tossing insults and barbs at the yuppy-ish salesmen, arguing with the referee (Eddie Sharkey), being chased by Johnny Love and protected by Larry Cameron were all part of the job. I never realized what the managers really go through at ringside until experiencing it myself. I even got to take a bump after being punched out by Johnny Love.

The thing that stands out most in my mind about the manager bit was the bump itself. I went down hard on the ring apron and it didn't hurt. I figured since that wasn't painful, I might as well roll off and on to the arena floor, so that's what I did. It still didn't hurt.

Never mind the fact that the next morning I couldn't get out of bed. Never mind the fact that my eyelashes hurt. It was a lot of fun and something that, given the right opportunity, I might be crazy enough to try again.

Hulk Hogan has changed the face of wrestling for the next generation. My first experience with Hulk-a-mania live was a TV taping in September of 1987. Titan deserves all the praise they can muster for the professional job they do at these tapings and the way they keep things moving. But the crowd reaction to Hulk Hogan was something you really can't prepare yourself for. The noise level in the Peoria Civic Center was unlike anything I've ever experienced including rock concerts. Sometimes, like Pavlov's dogs, my bones still vibrate when I see Hogan on TV.

I was a good little boy at the first set of tapings. I wasn't so nice at the second. Blessed with front row seats at the Challenge taping in Springfield, IL just prior to Wrestlemania IV, I had the agents in the back worried all night.

They had no idea who I was or what I was doing there or for that matter, how I had managed to get front row tickets. I had my daughter Kelly on my lap and we were both pretty bored after three or so hours of non action and squashes. The Titan cameraman decided that a four year old sitting on Daddy's lap would make a nice picture for the TV, so he aimed his machine our way. Not one to appreciate being on TV, especially in a situation like this, I told Kelly to wave at the camera and tell it how old she was. She held up four fingers. The cameraman didn't react one way or another. Until I held up four fingers. Maybe the WWF can confiscate banners proclaiming the NWA as the best, but they can't do anything about the four horsemen sign.

It took a few seconds to register what the four fingers meant, but as soon as they did (I have a feeling someone in the control booth told the cameraman over his headset), he dropped the camera to his side and glared at me, taking careful steps to avoid me in any other camera angles the rest of the night.

When I go to matches, I take a small cassette recorder with me rather than try to write down the results of the card. This got me into some trouble at this taping as well with Blackjack Lanza coming out and wanting to know if that recorder was a camcorder. I told this electronic genius that it wasn't and that it was just a tape recorder and he, of course, wanted to know why I was using it.

"It's easier than writing in the dark or with a kid on my lap," I explained. That seemed to satisfy him and he turned to walk off. I couldn't let it go at that though so I asked, "Wanna say 'hi' to Dave Meltzer?" He turned, eyes afire and screamed, "NO!" and stalked off. Seems no body in that whole organization can take a joke.

Still later on in the evening, two wrestlers came to the ring

and walked directly to me. One stood there facing me for a few seconds before turning to his partner and saying, "I don't know, but it ain't Dave."

One more cute kid story. The Peoria Civic Center usually has an autograph booth before any matches they have the WWF in for. One night, the guest was Hillbilly Jim. Granted, he might not be the most exciting wrestler in the world to meet, but I thought I'd take Kelly so see him since she'd seen him on TV (she'd already met Randy Savage and Elizabeth under the same circumstances). She was only three at the time and she played the part of the cute, adorable kid real well.

Barry Fox, one of the agents for Titan (nothing to do with booking, but everything to do with public relations and ticket sales locally) saw us standing in line. He was handing out pictures of Hillbilly Jim for us to have him sign. He asked Kelly if she knew who he was.

"That's Hillbilly Jim," she said.

Amazed, Fox grinned and went on down the line. Two minutes later, he was back again, with another guy. He showed Kelly the picture and asked again if she knew who he was.

"That's Hillbilly Jim!" she said again, a little agitated this time. She'd already told him once.

The third time he came back, he was asking for it. He asked he who the guy was and she told him again. This time though, he asked another, this time fatal, question. "Do you like Hillbilly Jim?"

Kelly floor him with her response, "No, he's just a jobber."

Fox's face turned about fourteen different shades of purple and he stormed off, never to return. Kids DO say the darndest things.

I'll remember the eighties for the great matches we were given. The Steamboat Flair series, starting as far back as 1984. The series this past year was as good as anything I ever remember seeing.

Ric Flair stands out in my mind as the most outstanding wrestler of the decade. You'll find his name quite a lot in our decade end awards for best match, so obviously I'm not alone in my thinking. Flair has always had the ability to make others look good and when paired with an opponent who already knows the intricate workings of a match, he looks even better. From his battles with Steamboat to his wars with Sting to the series against Barry Windham, Ric Flair made sure that anyone remembering the eighties will also remember him as well.

TV became bigger and better through the past decade and Bill Watts' show always seemed to have that extra something special. He knew how to excite casual fans as well the inside fans. He was able to motivate his wrestlers to put out their very best, even when they didn't have the talent to do so. My first ever look at Mid South wrestling was with other millions of fans who tuned in to the Superstation one Sunday evening and were treated to the kind of action never before seen on a weekly show. Many Mid South addicts were created that night, myself included.

Angles were plentiful during the decade too. The shock of twin referees costing Hulk Hogan his title; the Freebirds slamming the door on Kerry Von Erich; Terry Funk and Jerry Lawler settling their feud in an empty Mid South Coliseum; Jim Duggan and Ted DiBiase competing in a best dressed man contest; Paul Orndorff clotheslining Hulk Hogan after a tag match; Roddy Piper smashing a coconut on Jimmy Snuka's skull; Eddie Gilbert being slammed through the windshield of a Lincoln Continental in the parking lot of WSM-TV in Memphis; Paul E Dangerously attacking Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express on TBS; Tommy Rich coming out from under the ring to help Austin Idol

beat Jerry Lawler; the list is almost endless.

Sometimes the bad stands out as well as the good. Watching Andre attempting to suplex Hogan; the Sheepherders' walk; Uncle Elmer's wedding; Andre doing the fish song; Chief Jay Strongbow's teepee on Tuesday Night Titans; the whole Tuesday Night Titans thing; Sheik Adnon El-Kaissey ranting and raving in the AWA; Dusty Rhodes sticking his hand down a toilet; Dusty Rhodes being beaten up in a parking lot by the four horsemen and shouting, "make it good" before they "break" his arm; Eric Embry throwing up in the ring; Lazertron; Baron Von Raschke and the Crusher as AWA tag team champs; the Shotgun Sheriff's promotion out in Pennsylvania; Steve Williams' interviews; this list seems to go on forever as well.

The past decade has also marked the start of many careers that will no doubt last well into the nineties. We saw super green rookies such as Lex Luger, Scott Steiner, Keiji Mutoh, Sting, Marty Lunde (Arn Anderson), the Road Warriors, Ray Traylor (Bossman), Bobby Fulton, Paul Diamond, Sean Michaels, Marty Janetty, Rick Rude, Brian Pillman, and Rick Steiner begin their careers and develop in to some of the better workers around.

We saw the careers of Bruiser Brody, Adrian Adonis, Pat Kelly, Mark Youngblood, David and Mike Von Erich, Gino Hernandez, Dave McKigney, and Magnum TA all end prematurely.

We saw inter office struggles between giants Vince McMahon and Ted Turner. We saw talent raids that left unexpected individuals with promotions we'd never dream of seeing them with.

We've seen the birth of at least fifty new publications on wrestling and about the same number of demises.

We've seen wrestling promotions and wrestlers become more open with the fans and sheets. We've seen them become tighter-lipped.

We've seen the invention of new matches. We've seen War Games, Triple Towers of Doom, Survivor Series, Royal Rumbles, mud matches, pole matches, first blood matches, bunkhouse stampedes, team concepts and loser eats dog food matches.

TV has provided us with several lasting moments...Gino Hernandez being tackled by Chris Von Erich as he tried to escape getting his hair cut; Tommy Rich waving to Ted DiBiase just before Ted was pinned by a masked Mr. R (Brad Armstrong); Road Warrior Hawk being pinned by Tim Horner; Hulk Hogan doing a job for Tony Atlas; Riki Choshu getting kicked in the face by Akira Maeda; Bill Watts being draped by a USSR flag; King Kong Bundy attacking Paul Ellering after Ellering unleashed a bunch of "fat" jokes; Mean Gene's reaction to a falling sign; and Jerry Lawler getting his head shaved.

We've seen just about everything imaginable during the eighties. But the nineties are here, and something tells me we haven't seen everything yet.

Here's hoping the nineties are just as memorable as the eighties!



## TOP STORIES 1980-1989

- 1980** Wrestling war in Texas between Fritz Von Erich and Joe Blanchard; nobody wins. . . Ron Starr wins tournament for Junior Heavyweight Title. This will be the last time this belt gets major publicity. . . Bob Backlund wins by DQ over Harley Race on Sept 9 in a battle of champions at Madison Square Garden. . . Bruno Sammartino defeats Larry Zbyszko at Shea Stadium before 25,517 fans. Jack Britton and Ruffy Silverstein pass away.
- 1981** Tommy Rich defeats Harley Race for NWA title, loses it back three days later. . . Dusty Rhodes wins the belt from Race on June 21 and drops it to Ric Flair on September 24. . . Jerry Brown, Eddie Gilbert, Mike George, Steve Lawler, Ron McFarlane, Ricky Morton and Ed Wiskowski are the major names staging a "strike" against Leroy McGuirk in Oklahoma City over the issue of low payoffs. McGuirk fires them at once, but all are employed by other promotions in less than a week. Buddy "Killer" Austin, so named because he accidentally killed a man in the ring, passes away.
- 1982** St. Louis promoter Sam Muchnick retires, leaving his area in the hands of Larry Matysik, Pat O'Connor and Verne Gagne. The Crockett family take over Muchnick's NWA. . . Leroy McGuirk sells his promotion to Gil Cunklin and Bill Watts. . . Jerry Lawler piledrives Andy Kaufman in Memphis; this leads to a lucrative "feud" between the two. . . Global Wrestling reports a match in Bophuthaswana, South Africa between Hulk Hogan and Terry Funk. Hogan wins on a DQ. . . Dave Meltzer launches his Wrestling Observer.
- 1983** Vince McMahon Sr. retires, leaving the WWF in the hands of Vince Jr. Junior proceeds to begin a wrestling war by expanding nationwide. . . Hungary becomes the first Iron Curtain country to host a professional wrestling event. . . Bob Backlund loses the WWF belt to the Iron Sheik in the month of December. . . The Road Warriors are teamed for the first time in Georgia. . . Ernie Roth, better known as the Grand Wizard, dies in Florida of cancer.
- 1984** Hulk Hogan defeats the Iron Sheik for the WWF belt on January 23, officially ushering in the era of Hulkamania. McMahon also buys control of Georgia Championship Wrestling later in the year, causing Ted Turner to drop the show in favor of the Crocketts. . . Jumbo Tsurata wins AWA belt from Nick Bockwinkel; later loses strap to Rick Martel. . . NWA holds first card at the Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey. Argentina Apollo dies of a heart attack.

- 1985** Ken Patera and Mr. Saito are sentenced to prison for smashing a window at McDonalds and beating up the two cops who came to arrest them. . . Terry "Magnum TA" Allen is involved in a career-ending automobile accident. . . David Von Erich dies in Japan of mysterious circumstances. 25,000+ attend a memorial card held for him in Dallas. . . Eddie Graham dies of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. . . Jay Youngblood and Rick McGraw die of heart attacks. . . Madison Square Garden hosts the first Wrestlemania. the main event pits Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff against Hulk Hogan and Mr. T.
- 1986** Chris Adams sentenced to three months in jail for head-butting the co-pilot of the American Airlines flight on which Adams was a passenger. . . "Saturday Night's Main Event" marks the return of professional wrestling to network television after a 27 year absence. Gino Hernandez dies . . . Warren Bockwinkel, father of Nick, also passes away.
- 1987** Wrestlemania III attracts over 93,000 fans to the Pontiac Silverdome in Michigan. . . Ted DiBiase and Virgil enter the WWF. . . Crockett buys out Bill Watts' UWF. . . Jim Duggan and Iron Sheik arrested for drug possession on the Garden State Parkway in Holmdel, N.J. . . "Big Daddy" Crabtree accidentally kills Mal "King Kong" Kirk during a match in England. . . Mike Von Erich commits suicide.
- 1988** Randy Savage wins WWF belt in Wrestlemania IV . . Bruiser Brody knifed to death by Jose Gonzales in Puerto Rico. . . Professional wrestling in England is taken off television because of low ratings. . . Ted Turner purchases the NWA from the Crocketts. . . Adrian Adonis, Pat Kelly and Dave McKigney (Canadian Wildman) are killed when their van goes off the road in Newfoundland, Canada.
- 1989** Ricky Steamboat wins NWA belt from Ric Flair. . . Hulk Hogan wins WWF belt from Randy savage at Wrestlemania V. . . Jose Gonzales found innocent of murdering Bruiser Brody . . Hulk Hogan's movie, "No Holds Barred", is released; some critics maintain it escaped. . . Vince McMahon brings the WWF to London. Antonio Inoki brings professional wrestling to Moscow, Russia. Among those who passed away this year: Paul Boesch, Mildred Burke, Haystack Calhoun, Mario Galento, and Johnny Hunter.

## TITLE HISTORIES FOR THE 80'S

Instead of our usual yearbook format of presenting title histories for the entire year for every title we could keep track of, we instead look at the title histories for the entire decade for the major titles. Listed below are the world titles for the AWA, NWA and WWF along with the tag team titles from each organization as well. We have also included the history of the Intercontinental title from the WWF.

### AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| DATE     | WON BY          | LOST BY         | SITE              |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 7/18/80  | Verne Gagne     | Nick Bockwinkel | Chicago, IL       |
| 5/10/81  | Nick Bockwinkel | -----           | office (1)        |
| 8/29/82  | Otto Wanz       | Nick Bockwinkel | St. Paul, MN      |
| 10/9/82  | Nick Bockwinkel | Otto Wanz       | Chicago, IL       |
| 2/22/84  | Jumbo Tsuruta   | Nick Bockwinkel | Tokyo, Japan      |
| 5/13/84  | Rick Martel     | Jumbo Tsuruta   | St. Paul, MN      |
| 12/29/85 | Stan Hansen     | Rick Martel     | E. Rutherford, NJ |
| 6/29/85  | Nick Bockwinkel | -----           | Denver, CO (2)    |
| 5/2/87   | Curt Hennig     | Nick Bockwinkel | San Francisco, CA |
| 5/9/88   | Jerry Lawler    | Curt Hennig     | Memphis, TN       |
| 2/7/89   | Larry Zbyszko   | -----           | St. Paul, MN (3)  |

(1) Verne Gagne retired on this date and Nick Bockwinkel was awarded the title based on his "#1 ranking and past performance as champion."

(2) Nick Bockwinkel was awarded the title when Stan Hansen refused to do a job for him and walked out of the building.

(3) Larry Zbyszko eliminated Tom Zenk in a battle royal after Lawler had been stripped of the title for no showing a card in Milwaukee a month earlier.

### AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION TAG TEAM TITLES

| DATE     | WON BY                             | SITE            |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 7/80     | Adrian Adonis/Jesse Ventura        | office (1)      |
| 6/14/81  | Greg Gagne/Jim Brunzell            | Green Bay, WI   |
| 6/26/83  | Ken Patera/Jerry Blackwell         | Minneapolis, MN |
| 5/6/84   | Crusher Lisowski/Baron Von Raschke | Green Bay, WI   |
| 8/25/84  | Road Warriors                      | Las Vegas, NV   |
| 9/29/85  | Jim Garvin/Steve Regal             | St. Paul, MN    |
| 1/18/86  | Scott Hall/Curt Hennig             | Albuquerque, NM |
| 5/17/86  | Buddy Rose/Doug Sommers            | Hammond, IN (2) |
| 1/27/87  | Midnight Rockers                   | St. Paul, MN    |
| 5/25/87  | Boris Zhukov/Soldat Ustinov        | Lake Tahoe, NV  |
| 10/11/87 | Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee           | Memphis (3)     |
| 10/19/87 | Hector Guererro/Doctor D           | Memphis (4)     |
| 10/26/87 | Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee           | Memphis         |
| 10/30/87 | Original Midnight Express          | Whitewater, WI  |
| 12/27/87 | Midnight Rockers                   | Las Vegas, NV   |
| 3/19/88  | Pat Tanaka/Paul Diamond            | Las Vegas, NV   |
| 5/25/89  | Brad Rheingans/Ken Patera          | Rochester, MN   |
|          | Destruction Crew                   | Rochester, MN   |

(1) awarded belts from Gagne/Mad Dog Vachon

(2) won title on count out

(3) Doug Sommers was Soldat Ustinov's partner in this match as Boris Zhukov had left for the WWF

(4) The title changed hands for the first time in Memphis on this date, but also changed hands in every city on the CWA circuit during the next week.

#### NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| DATE     | WON BY          | LOST BY         | CITY                 |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 9/4/80   | Giant Baba      | Harley Race     | Saga, Japan          |
| 9/10/80  | Harley Race     | Giant Baba      | Ostu, Japan          |
| 4/27/81  | Tommy Rich      | Harley Race     | Augusta, GA          |
| 5/1/81   | Harley Race     | Tommy Rich      | Gainsville, GA       |
| 6/21/81  | Dusty Rhodes    | Harley Race     | Atlanta, GA          |
| 9/17/81  | Ric Flair       | Dusty Rhodes    | Kansas City, MO      |
| 6/10/83  | Harley Race     | Ric Flair       | St. Louis, MO        |
| 11/24/83 | Ric Flair       | Harley Race     | Greensboro, NC       |
| 5/6/84   | Kerry Von Erich | Ric Flair       | Irving, TX           |
| 5/24/84  | Ric Flair       | Kerry Von Erich | Yokosuka City, Japan |
| 7/26/86  | Dusty Rhodes    | Ric Flair       | Greensboro, NC       |
| 8/9/86   | Ric Flair       | Dusty Rhodes    | St Louis, MO         |
| 9/25/87  | Ron Garvin      | Ric Flair       | Detroit, MI          |
| 11/26/87 | Ric Flair       | Ron Garvin      | Chicago, IL          |
| 2/20/89  | Ricky Steamboat | Ric Flair       | Chicago, IL          |
| 5/7/89   | Ric Flair       | Ricky Steamboat | Nashville, TN        |

**NOTE:** There was also a one day switch between Flair and Race that is not accounted for in this listing. Changes were done, probably by accident in Australia and New Zealand.

#### NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM TITLES

**NOTE:** these titles changed hands quite a bit in several locals during the late seventies and early eighties. This was due to some turmoil in the front offices of various NWA groups and due to the practice of changing a title in many cities. We have made notes of the "office changes" whenever possible.

| DATE     | WON BY                             | CITY               |
|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 6/22/80  | Jimmy Snuka/Ray Stevens            | Greensboro, NC (1) |
| 11/80    | Masked Superstar/Paul Jones        | (2)                |
| 2/22/81  | Ivan Koloff/Ray Stevens            | Greensboro, NC     |
| 3/22/81  | Masked Superstar/Paul Jones        | Greensboro, NC     |
| 5/1/81   | Gene/Ole Anderson                  | Richmond, VA       |
| 9/82     | Sgt Slaughter/Don Kernodle         | (3)                |
| 3/12/83  | Rick Steamboat/Jay Youngblood      | Greensboro, NC     |
| 6/18/83  | Jack & Jerry Brisco                | Greenville, SC     |
| 10/3/83  | Rick Steamboat/Jay Youngblood      | Greenville, SC     |
| 10/21/83 | Jack & Jerry Brisco                | Richmond, VA       |
| 1/8/84   | Bob Orton/Don Kernodle             | Charlotte, NC (4)  |
| 3/4/84   | Jay Youngblood/Wahoo McDaniel      | Charlotte, NC      |
| 4/4/84   | Jack & Jerry Brisco                | Spartanburg, SC    |
| 4/27/84  | Jay Youngblood/Wahoo McDaniel      | Richmond, VA       |
| 5/84     | Ivan Koloff/Don Kernodle           | (5)                |
| 10/20/84 | Manny Fernandez/Dusty Rhodes       | Greensboro, NC     |
| 3/18/85  | Ivan & Nikita Koloff               | Fayetteville, NC   |
| 7/9/85   | Rock & Roll Express                | Shelby, NC (6)     |
| 10/13/85 | Ivan & Nikita Koloff               | Charlotte, NC      |
| 11/28/85 | Rock & Roll Express                | Greensboro, NC     |
| 2/2/86   | Midnight Express (Condrey & Eaton) | Atlanta, GA        |
| 8/16/86  | Rock & Roll Express                | Philadelphia, PA   |

|                                                                 |                                 |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 12/6/86                                                         | Manny Fernandez/Rick Rude       | Atlanta, GA      |
| 5/86                                                            | Rock & Roll Express             | (7)              |
| 9/29/87                                                         | Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson    | Misenheimer, NC  |
| 3/27/88                                                         | Lex Luger/Barry Windham         | Greensboro, NC   |
| 4/20/88                                                         | Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson    | Tallahassee, FL  |
| 9/10/88                                                         | Midnight Express (Lane & Eaton) | Philadelphia, PA |
| 10/29/88                                                        | Road Warriors                   | New Orleans, LA  |
| 4/2/89                                                          | Mike Rotundo/Steve Williams     | New Orleans, LA  |
| title held up due to Teddy Long's fast count-tournament ordered |                                 |                  |
| 6/12/89                                                         | Michael Hayes/Jim Garvin        | Ft. Bragg, NC    |
| 11/2/89                                                         | Rick & Scott Steiner            | Atlanta, GA      |

- (1) The title had changed hands several times in April 1980 between Youngblood/Steamboat and Stevens/Greg Valentine and/or Jimmy Sunka
- (2) Superstar and Paul Jones came out with belts with no explanation of where or when they had changed hands.
- (3) Gene and Ole Anderson had been stripped of the titles in January 1981. Kernodle and Slaughter won an imaginary tournament.
- (4) Steamboat retired in December 1983 and Orton/Kernodle won the titles in a tournament, final over Jimmy Valiant & Dory Funk
- (5) Possibly another phantom title change - no details are available
- (6) Krusher Kruschev was Ivan's partner as any two of the three Russians were allowed to defend the title
- (7) Rude left without notice for the WWF. Title change was an office change, though a match that had been taped the previous January (non title) was shown on WTBS. Picture froze before Rock & Roll were awarded the belts

#### WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| DATE     | WON BY                | LOST BY      | CITY                  |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 12/26/83 | Iron Sheik            | Bob Backlund | New York, NY          |
| 1/23/84  | Hulk Hogan            | Iron Sheik   | New York, NY          |
| 2/5/88   | Andre the Giant       | Hulk Hogan   | Indianapolis, IN      |
| 2/5/88   | Ted DiBiase           | -----        | (1)                   |
| 2/13/88  | title declared vacant |              | (2)                   |
| 3/27/88  | Randy Savage          | -----        | Atlantic City, NJ (3) |
| 4/2/89   | Hulk Hogan            | Randy Savage | Atlantic City, NJ     |

- (1) Andre the Giant gave the WWF title to Ted DiBiase after winning it from Hogan.
- (2) DiBiase defended the belt for one week prior to the announcement that a tournament would be held to determine the champion.
- (3) Savage defeated four opponents to win the one day tournament.

# WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM TITLES

| DATE     | WON BY                                      | CITY              |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 4/12/80  | Wild Samoans                                | Philadelphia, PA  |
| 8/9/80   | Bob Backlund/Pedro Morales                  | New York, NY      |
| 9/9/80   | Wild Samoans                                | Allentown, PA (1) |
| 11/8/80  | Tony Garea/Rick Martel                      | Philadelphia, PA  |
| 3/17/81  | Moondogs                                    | Allentown, PA     |
| 7/21/81  | Tony Garea/Rick Martel                      | Allentown, PA     |
| 10/13/81 | Mr. Fuji/Mr. Saito                          | Allentown, PA     |
| 6/28/82  | Jules & Jay Strongbow                       | New York, NY      |
| 7/13/82  | Mr. Fuji/Mr. Saito                          | Allentown, PA     |
| 10/26/82 | Jules & Jay Strongbow                       | Allentown, PA     |
| 3/8/83   | Wild Samoans                                | Allentown, PA     |
| 11/15/83 | Rocky Johnson/Tony Atlas                    | Allentown, PA     |
| 4/17/84  | Dick Murdoch/Adrian Adonis                  | Hamburg, PA       |
| 1/21/85  | Barry Windham/Mike Rotundo                  | Hartford, CT      |
| 3/31/85  | Nicolai Volkoff/Iron Sheik                  | New York, NY      |
| 6/17/85  | Barry Windham/Mike Rotundo                  | Poughkeepsie, NY  |
| 8/24/85  | Greg Valentine/Brutus Beefcake              | Philadelphia, PA  |
| 4/7/86   | British Bulldogs                            | Chicago, IL       |
| 1/26/87  | Hart Foundation                             | Tampa, FL         |
| 10/27/87 | Strike Force (Santana/Martel)               | Syracuse, NY      |
| 3/27/88  | Demolition                                  | Atlantic City, NJ |
|          | Brainbusters (Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson) |                   |
|          | Demolition                                  |                   |
|          | Colossal Connection (Haku & Andre)          |                   |

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## WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

| DATE     | WON BY           | LOST BY          | CITY                |
|----------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 4/21/80  | Ken Patera       | Pat Petterson    | New York, NY        |
| 12/8/80  | Pedro Morales    | Ken Patera       | New York, NY        |
| 6/20/81  | Don Muraco       | Pedro Morales    | Philadelphia, PA    |
| 11/23/81 | Pedro Morales    | Don Muraco       | New York, NY        |
| 1/22/83  | Don Muraco       | Pedro Morales    | New York, NY        |
| 2/11/84  | Tito Santana     | Don Muraco       | Boston, MA          |
| 9/24/84  | Greg Valentine   | Tito Santana     | London, ONT Canada  |
| 7/6/85   | Tito Santana     | Greg Valentine   | Baltimore, MD       |
| 2/8/86   | Randy Savage     | Tito Santana     | Boston, MA          |
| 3/29/87  | Rick Steamboat   | Randy Savage     | Pontiac, MI         |
| 6/2/87   | Honky Tonk Man   | Rick Steamboat   | Buffalo, NY         |
| 8/29/88  | Ultimate Warrior | Honky Tonk Man   | New York, NY        |
| 4/2/89   | Rick Rude        | Ultimate Warrior | Atlantic City, NJ   |
| 8/28/89  | Ultimate Warrior | Rick Rude        | East Rutherford, NJ |

## DATES THROUGHOUT WRESTLING HISTORY

Below, you will find significant (and not so significant) events that occurred on dates throughout history. Nobody's perfect, and there's some dates that we flat out couldn't find anything for. In those cases, we've made up stuff and to clue you in on those dates, the event is listed in CAPITAL LETTERS. Enjoy. If you have anything to add to this list, by all means, send it along to us.

### JANUARY

- 1 - 1982 - Tiger Mask wins WWF Jr. Heavyweight title
- 2 - 1984-Roddy Piper jumps to the WWF
- 3 - 1987-Bill Dundee captures Central States title in Topeka, KS
- 4 - 1986-Arn Anderson wins NWA TV title in Charlotte
- 5 - 1987-Adrian Street wins Southeastern Heavyweight championship-Birmingham
- 6 - 1986-Norvell Austin wins Southeast Heavyweight title-Birmingham
- 7 - 1966-Gene Kiniski wins 1st and only NWA World title-St Louis
- 8 - 1984-Bob Orton/Don Kernodle win NWA tag team titles in one night tournament in Charlotte
- 9 - 1987-Larry Hamilton wins Southeastern junior heavyweight championship in Birmingham
- 10 - 1987-NWA vs WWF head to head in Philadelphia draw 25,000 combined
- 11 - 1986-Sam Houston wins Mid Atlantic championship-Atlanta
- 12 - 1986-Fantastics win Mid Southern tag team titles in tournament in Memphis
- 13 - 1985-Sergeant Slaughter makes AWA debut
- 14 - 1987-Jim Neidhart is arrested for slapping a stewardess on board a USAir flight. He is later acquitted of the charges.
- 15 - 1989-WWF Pay Per View-Royal Rumble
- 16 - 1987-Lex Luger loses Southern heavyweight championship to Kevin Sullivan and departs for NWA
- 17 - 1988-NWA Pay Per View-Bunkhouse Stampede finals
- 18 - 1971-Ivan Koloff defeats Bruno Sammartino for WWWF title-MSG  
1986-Scott Hall & Curt Hennig win AWA tag team titles in Albuquerque
- 19 - 1954-Ted DiBiase born
- 20 - 1972-Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens win 1st AWA tag team titles
- 21 - 1985-Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo win WWF tag team titles in Hartford, CT
- 22 - 1983-Don Muraco wins Intercontinental title in Madison Square Garden
- 23 - 1984-Hulk Hogan wins WWF heavyweight championship-MSG
- 24 - 1987-World Class tries experiment of doing a TV show with no announcers
- 25 - 1965-Bruno Sammartino & Bill Watts go to a draw with Gene Kiniski & Waldo Von Erich in Madison Square Garden
- 26 - 1987-Hart Foundation win WWF tag team titles in Tampa, FL
- 27 - 1987-Midnight Rockers win AWA tag team titles in St Paul
- 28 - 1960-Jesse Barr born
- 29 - 1988-Yumi Ogura beat Bull Nakano for All Japan Women's Championship in Nagoya Japan
- 30 - 1965-Larry Hennig & Harley Race win 1st AWA tag team championships
- 31 - FREAK SNOWSTORM IN HONOLULU STRANDS MANY AWA WRESTLERS THUS EXPLAINING THEIR NO SHOWS

### FEBRUARY

- 1 - 1988-Max Pain & Gary Young win CWA tag team titles in one night tournament in Memphis
- 2 - 1986-Midnight Express win NWA tag team titles in Atlanta
- 3 - 1960-Kerry Von Erich born
- 4 - 1986-Jake Roberts fools Houston media by winning North American title after they reported he had no chance of doing so because he was headed for the WWF

## February

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- 5 - 1988-NBC Prime Time Special featuring Hulk Hogan losing WWF title in controversial match with Andre the Giant
- 6 - 1977-Harley Race wins second NWA title in Toronto
- 7 - 1989-Larry Zbyszko wins battle royal to claim AWA championship in St. Paul
- 8 - 1986-Randy Savage wins Intercontinental belt in Boston
- 9 - 1984-David Von Erich dies in Japan
- 10 - 1986-Gino Hernandez found dead in Highland Park TX apartment of a drug overdose
- 11 - 1969-Dory Funk Jr. wins first NWA title in Tampa  
1984-Tito Santana wins Intercontinental belt in Boston
- 12 - 1960-Akeem/One Man Gang born
- 13 - 1864-ABE LINCOLN GOES TO 45 MINUTE DRAW WITH STEPHEN DOUGLAS IN GETTYSBURG (WE FORGET THE ADDRESS)
- 14 - 1986-Battle of the Belts in Orlando, FL featuring Barry Windham vs Ric Flair
- 15 - 1963-Crusher Lisowski wins AWA Heavyweight championship  
1986-Wrestling Forum begins publication  
1989-Clash of Champions V - Cleveland, OH
- 16 - 1986-Dick Slater wins Mid South TV title-Tulsa, OK
- 17 - 1986-Adrian Street wins Southeast Heavyweight championship-Birmingham
- 18 - 1987-Kevin Sullivan wins Southern Heavyweight championship-Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 19 - 1941-Dory Funk Jr. born
- 20 - 1978-Bob Backlund wins WWWF title from Billy Graham  
1989-Rick Steamboat wins NWA title from Ric Flair in Chicago
- 21 - 1985-ABC's 20/20 does wrestling expose
- 22 - 1984-Jumbo Tsuruta wins AWA championship in Tokyo
- 23 - 1987-Big Bubba/Goliath win AWA southern Tag Team titles in Memphis
- 24 - 1987-Sir Oliver Humperdink beats Bad News Allen for Florida Heavyweight Championship in Tampa
- 25 - 1950-Ric Flair born
- 26 - 1967-Verne Gagne wins AWA title
- 27 - 1987-Dusty Rhodes wins first Bunkhouse Stampede in Pittsburgh
- 28 - 1953-Rick Steamboat born
- 29 - 1988-Bruise Brothers win CWA tag team titles in Memphis

## MARCH

- 1 - 1915-Joe Stecher wins a version of the World title from Charlie Cutler
- 2 - Bruno Sammartino draws with Cowboy Bill Watts-MSG
- 3 - 1986-Abdul Khadafy wins International Heavyweight Championship in Memphis
- 4 - 1984-Wahoo McDaniel/Jay Youngblood win NWA tag team titles in Charlotte, NC
- 5 - 1985-Mark/Jay Youngblood win US tag team titles in Tampa
- 6 - 1988-Kerry Von Erich wins World Class version of World title in Fort Worth
- 7 - 1987-Lazertron (Hector Guerro) wins NWA junior heavyweight title in Atlanta
- 8 - 1983-Samoans win WWF tag team titles-Allentown, PA
- 9 - 1988-Genichiro Tenryu wins PWF title-Yokohama, Japan
- 10 - 1986-Brian Adias wins Texas championship-Ft. Worth
- 11 - 1986-Kendall Windham wins Florida championship in Tampa
- 12 - 1983-Rick Steamboat/Jay Youngblood win NWA tag team titles in Greensboro
- 13 - 1979-Randy Savage defeats brother Lanny Poffo for ICW World Championship in Springfield, IL



- 14 - 1986-Brad Armstrong wins Continental heavyweight title in Mobile
- 15 - 1987-Tracy SMothers/Brad Armstrong win Florida tag team championship in Daytona Beach, FL
- 16 - 1985-Sheepherders win Mid South tag team titles in Oklahoma City
- 17 - 1981-Moondogs win WWF tag titles in Allentown
- 18 - 1985-Ivan and Nikita Koloff win NWA tag championship in Fayetteville
- 19 - 1988-Paul Diamond/Pat Tanaka win AWA tag team titles in Las Vegas
- 20 - 1987-Shiro Koshinaka/Keiji Mutoh win Gran Prix tag team championship in Tokyo
- 21 - 1984-Harley Race wins un-publicized NWA title from Ric Flair in Wellington, New Zealand
- 22 - 1981-Masked Superstar/Paul Jones win NWA tag team belts in Greensboro
- 23 - 1984-Ric Flair wins back NWA title secretly in Kallang, Singapore
- 24 - 1986-Lance Von Erich wins World Class TV title
- 25 - 1989-Ken Patera/Brad Rheingans win AWA tag belts in Rochester,
- 26 - 1987-Akira Maeda/Nobuhiku Takada win Gran Prix tag championship in Osaka, Japan
- 27 - 1988-Wrestlemania IV-Atlantic City, NJ  
1988-Clash of Champions I-Greensboro, NC
- 28 - 1988-Tony Anthony wins ALabama state title and is last to hold
- 29 - 1987-Wrestlemania III-Pontiac, MI
- 30 - 1986-Fantastics win Mid South tag team championships-Tulsa
- 31 - 1985-Wrestlemania I-New York, Madison Square Garden

#### APRIL

- 1 - 1983-last time AWA sells out Chicago - Rosemont Horizon, 18,000 for Blackjacks/Bruiser vs Patera/Blackwell/Kaissey on top
- 2 - 1989-Wrestlemania V - Atlantic City, NJ  
1989-Clash of Champions VI-Detroit
- 3 - 1908-Frank Gotch wins undisputed world title in Chicago over George Hackenschmidt
- 4 - 1984-Jack & Jerry Brisco win NWA tag titles in Spartanburg, SC
- 5 - 1986-Riki Choshu wins PWF championship-Yokohama
- 6 - 1974-Tony Morino beats the Sheik (Ed Farhat) for US title- Detroit, Michigan
- 7 - 1986-Wrestlemania II-New York, Chicago, Los Angeles
- 8 - 1986-Jerry Lawler beats Bill Dundee for Southern title in Memphis
- 9 - 1935-Paul Bowser signs Danno O'Mahonny to first U.S. contract
- 10 - 1986-First night of Crockett Cup II
- 11 - 1986-Second night of Crockett Cup II-Dusty Rhodes & Nikita Koloff win the two night tournament
- 12 - 1980-Samoans win WWF tag titles in Philadelphia
- 13 - 1981-Tiger Mask (Satoru Sayama) makes debut
- 14 - 1988-Jumbo Tsuruta beats Bruiser Brody for International title Sendai, Japan
- 15 - 1983-Jerry Blackwell beats Kerry Von Erich for Missouri title
- 16 - 1987-Mike Von Erich found dead as the result of a suicide
- 17 - 1984-Dick Murdoch/Adrian Adonis win WWF tag team titles in Allentown
- 18 - 1985-AWA tag champs Road Warriors have first meeting with NWA tag champs Ivan & Nikita Koloff in Washington DC
- 19 - 1986-First Crockett Cup in New Orleans
- 20 - 1986-WrestleRock in Minneapolis
- 21 - 1980-Ken Patera wins Intercontinental title in MSG
- 22 - 1988-First night of Crockett Cup III
- 23 - 1988-Second night of Crockett Cup III-won by Lex Luger & Sting
- 24 - 1987-Stan Hansen beats Hiroshi Wajima in tournament for PWF title Yokohama, Japan
- 25 - 1947-Lou Thesz beats Whipper Billy Watson for world title in StLouis

April continued

- 26 - 1988-Fantastics win US tag team titles from Midnight Express in Chatanooga, TN
- 27 - 1981-Tommy Rich wins NWA title in Augusta, GA
- 28 - 1985-Tully Blanchard regains TV title from Dusty Rhodes in Charlotte
- 29 - 1959-Debbie Combs born  
1985-Sports Illustrated does 18 page feature on Pro Wrestling
- 30 - 1984-Lords of the Ring card in Miami

# MAY

- 1 - 1981-Harley Race regains NWA title from Tommy Rich in Atlanta  
1987-Jim Crockett takes over Watts' UWF
- 2 - 1987-Curt Hennig wins AWA title, San Francisco
- 3 - 1987-Fourth Annual Parade of Champions, Texas Stadium
- 4 - 1987-Jack Hart (Barry Horowitz)/Chick Donovan win Southern Tag team titles in Memphis
- 5 - 1939-Cowboy Bill Watts born
- 6 - 1984-First Parade of Champions - Kerry wins NWA belt
- 7 - 1989-Ric Flair wins NWA championship from Steamboat in Nashville
- 8 - 1988-Fifth Annual Parade of Champions
- 9 - 1988-Jerry Lawler wins AWA title from Curt Hennig in Memphis
- 10 - 1954-Tito Santana born
- 11 - 1985-Wrestling returns to network television with first Saturday Night's Main Event
- 12 - 1986-Jerry Stubbs wins Continental heavyweight title in Birmingham
- 13 - 1984-Rick Martel beats Jumbo Tsuruta for AWA championship in St. Paul
- 14 - 1961-Tommy Rogers of Fantastics is born
- 15 - 1965-Mighty Igor wins AWA title in Omaha
- 16 - 1964-Verne Gagne beats Mad Dog Vachon for AWA championship
- 17 - 1963-Bruno Sammartino beats Buddy Rogers at MSG for first WWF championship reign  
1986-Buddy Rose/Doug Sommers win AWA tag titles on a count out in Hammond, IN
- 18 - 1943-Superfly Jimmy Snuka born
- 19 - 1946-Andre the Giant born
- 20 - 1985-Hiro Saito wins WWF junior heavyweight crown in Hiroshima
- 21 - 1986-Keiji Mutoh (Great Muta) wins first US championship with the Florida heavyweight championship in Tampa
- 22 - 1965-Mad Dog Vachon beats Igor for AWA title
- 23 - 1986-Mike George becomes the last to hold Central States championship
- 24 - 1973-Harley Race wins first NWA championship in Kansas City  
1982-Tiger Mask wins NWA junior heavyweight championship  
1984-Ric Flair regains NWA belt from Kerry Von Erich in Japan
- 25 - 1982-Tiger Mask wins WWF junior heavyweight title and becomes first to hold both NWA and WWF titles at same time
- 26 - 1987-Rock and Roll Express awarded NWA belts when Rick Rude leaves for WWF-a match was shown with R&R winning, but it had been taped in January and was a non title match.
- 27 - 1987-Jim Duggan and Iron Sheik arrested in New Jersey while riding in same car, for illegal transportation of alcohol and possession of marijuana
- 28 - 1985-Dino Bravo wins Canadian International title in Montreal
- 29 - 1986-NWA presents Night of Champions at Meadowlands
- 30 - 1986-Terry Gordy wins first UWF title in one night tournament
- 31 - Billy Anderson makes pro debut

## JUNE

- 1 - 1987-Jeff Jarrett wins Mid American championship in Memphis
- 2 - 1987-Honky Tonk Man defeats Rick Steamboat for Intercontinental title in Buffalo, NY
- 3 - 1985-Karl Steiner/Mike Miller win Pacific Northwest tag team titles
- 4 - 1986-Kerry Von Erich injured in motorcycle accident which ultimately results in the amputation of his foot
- 5 - 1983-Larry Zbyszko wins tournament for National Championship in Atlanta
- 6 - 1979-Verne Gagne/Mad Dog Vachon win AWA tag team titles in Winnipeg
- 7 - 1986-Owen Hart makes pro debut
- 8 - 1988-Clash of Champions II Miami, FL
- 9 - 1986-Steve Armstrong/Tommy Rich win Southeasten tag team titles in Birmingham
- 10 - 1983-Harley Race wins NWA title in St Louis
- 11 - 1960-Red Bastien/Lou Klein win United States Tag titles in Washington DC
- 12 - 1989-Clash of Champions VII-Fort Bragg NC
- 13 - 1987-Bill Dundee wins International title in Memphis
- 14 - 1981-Greg Gagne/Jim Brunzell win AWA tag belts in Green Bay, WI
- 15 - 1986-Buddy Landell wins Mid South Heavyweight title in tournament in Memphis
- 16 - 1984-MSG, Sgt Slaughter vs Iron Sheik in famous boot camp match
- 17 - 1985-Barry Windham/Mike Rotundo win WWF tag titles in Poughkeepsie, NY
- 18 - 1983-Brisco Brothers win NWA tag straps in Greensboro
- 19 - 1986-Antonio Inoki wins final round of IWGP tournament over Dick Murdoch
- 20 - 1981-Don Muraco wins Intercontinental title in Philadelphia
- 21 - 1981-Dusty Rhodes wins NWA title in Atlanta
- 22 - 1987-Jeff Jarrett regains Mid American title from Moondog Spot in Memphis
- 23 - 1986-Brad Armstrong wins CWF championship - Birmingham
- 24 - 1985-Gino Hernandez/Chris Adams win World Class Tag Team Championship in Fort Worth
- 25 - 1966-Johnny Valentine turns heel on Johnny DeFazio in Pittsburgh
- 26 - 1983-Crusher Blackwell/Ken Patera win AWA tag championship
- 27 - Mike Miller wins Pacific Northwest title-1987  
1988-Max Pain wins CWA title in Memphis
- 28 - 1982-Strongbows apparently win WWWF tag titles in MSG but titles are later held up pending a return match with Fuji/Saito
- 29 - 1986-Nick Bockwinkel is given AWA title in Denver after Stan Hansen fails to show up for scheduled match
- 30 - 1944-Terry Funk born  
1961-Buddy Rogers wins NWA title from Pat O'Connor in Chicago

## JULY

- 1 - 1962-Tom Magee born  
1972-first women's match in New York state
- 2 - 1988-Grappler and Terminator begin one week as Pacific Northwest tag team champions with win over Southern Rockers
- 3 - 1988-Phil Hickerson wins CWA title in Memphis
- 4 - 1982-NWA champion Ric Flair goes to a double count out with WWF champion Bob Backlund in title vs title match in Atlanta  
1988-car accident claims lives of Adrian Adonis, Dave McKigney, and Pat Kelly in Canada
- 5 - 1985-Iceman Parsons wins World Class American title in Dallas
- 6 - 1985-first Great American Bash in Charlotte
- 7 - 1977-Greg Gagne/Jim Brunzell win first AWA tag championships in Winnipeg Canada

## July continued

- 8 - 1979-Ric Flair defeats Buddy Rogers in figure four match Greensboro
- 9 - 1963-Crusher wins AWA title  
1985-Rock & Roll Express win NWA tag titles in Shelby, NC
- 10 - 1988-NWA Pay Per View-Great American Bash-Baltimore
- 11 - 1961-Gene Kiniski wins AWA championship in Minneapolis
- 12 - Former NWA champion Yvon Robert passes away in Montreal
- 13 - 1982-Mr. Fuji/Mr. Saito win WWF tag belts in Allentown, PA
- 14 - 1984-Black Saturday-WWF takes over Georgia Championship Wrestling spot on WTBS
- 15 - 1983-Ric Flair defeats David Von Erich in final round of tournament for Missouri state title
- 16 - 1975-AWA championship belt is stolen from timekeeper's table in Davenport IA  
1988-Bruiser Brody is stabbed in Puerto Rico and dies
- 17 - 1987-Rufus R Jones wins Central States championship in Kansas City
- 18 - 1980-Verne Gagne wins AWA belt in Chicago
- 19 - 1957-Robert Gibson born
- 20 - 1973-Jack Brisco wins his first NWA championship in Houston
- 21 - 1981-Rick Martel/tony Garea win WWF tag titles in Allentown, PA
- 22 - 1986-Masked Superstar defeats Lex Luger for Southern Heavyweight Championship in Tampa
- 23 - 1971-Hercules Cortez dies in car accident near St Cloud, MN  
1989-NWA Pay Per View-Great American Bash 89-Baltimore, MD
- 24 - 1949-NWA organized-recognize Orville Brown as champion
- 25 - 1952-Jimmy Garvin born
- 26 - 1986-Dusty Rhodes wins NWA heavyweight championship in Greensboro
- 27 - 1987-Bruiser Brody does last job in career for Abdullah the Butcher
- 28 - 1986-ESPN broadcasts AWA show live from Oakland
- 29 - 859 B. C.-KARAOE DANFELQO DEFEATES RATUF THE SPINX IN FIRST RECORDED MATCH IN EGYPT
- 30 - 1985-Stan Hansen wins PWF championship in Fukuoka, Japan
- 31 - 1986-Stan Hansen wins All Japan International championship in Tokyo

## AUGUST

- 1 - 1975-Gino Hernandez makes pro debut in Houston
- 2 - 1986-Steve Regal wins NWA junior title in Atlanta
- 3 - 1980-Last Tango in Tampa - Race defends NWA belt against Rhodes, Backlund defends WWF belt against Don Muraco
- 4 - 1986-Adrian Street wins Southeastern title in Birmingham
- 5 - 1953-Stan Lane born
- 6 - 1985-Adrian Street wins Southeastern title in Birmingham
- 7 - 1987-Simpsons win World Class tag titles in Fort Worth
- 8 - 1961-Verne Gagne wins AWA title in Bloomington, MN  
1983-Tiger Mask retires
- 9 - 1980-WWF Shea Stadium card featuring Bruno vs Zbyszko in cage
- 10 - 1956-Big Bubba/Tubba Bubba/Tugboat Thomas born
- 11 - 1986-Steve Simpson wins World Class TV title
- 12 - 1981-Mils Mascaras goes to a draw in Tokyo with Rick Steamboat
- 13 - 1949-Jim Brunzell born
- 14 - 1958-Bobby Eaton born
- 15 - 1988-Rock & Roll RPM's win CWA tag titles in Memphis
- 16 - 1986-Rock and Roll Express win NWA tag belts in Philadelphia
- 17 - 1968-Dr. X wins AWA title in Minneapolis  
1987-Nikita Koloff wins NWA TV title in Fayetteville, NC
- 18 - 1887-Bull Muldoon beats John L Sullivan in first recorded boxer vs wrestler match

## August continued

- 19 - 1959-Tim Horner born
- 20 - 1987-Kuniaki Kobayshi wins tournament for Gran Prix junior heavy-weight championship, Tokyo
- 21 - 1979-Dusty Rhodes wins his first NWA heavyweight championship, Tampa, FL
- 22 - 1912-Frank Gotch's final match vs Jesse Westergaard in Kansas City
- 23 - 1929-Dick Shikat defeats Jim Londos in Philadelphia for a version of the World title
- 24 - 1985-Brutus Beefcake/Greg Valentine win WWF tag titles in Philadelphia
- 25 - 1984-Road Warriors win AWA tag team titles in Las Vegas
- 26 - 1987-Harley Race wins NWA title in Orlando, FL
- 27 - 1875-Grace Hemendinger, a 6'1", 275 woman becomes first woman to pin a man in a wrestling match
- 28 - 1986-WWF sets record in Toronto for attendance with 74,080 (for once they understated the crowd due to fire regulations) to see Hogan vs Orndorff
- 1987-Paul Boesch retires in Houston and representatives from almost every organization turn out for the WWF show
- 29 - 1982-Otto Wanz wins AWA title in St. Paul
- 1988-Summerslam I
- 30 - 1986-Uncle Elmer & Cousin Junior begin two day reign as MidSouth Tag team champions in Memphis
- 31 - 1985-Tiger Mask wins junior heavyweight championship

**SEPTEMBER**

- 1 - 1965-Tonga Kid born
- 2 - 1985-Akira Maeda vs Satoru Sayama turns into shoot
- 3 - 1984-Jumbo Tsuruta/Genichiro Tenyru win International tag team championships in Tokyo
- 4 - 1980-Giant Baba wins NWA title in Saga, Japan
- 5 - 1988-John Tatum/Jimmy Jack Funk win Texas tag championship in Ft. Worth
- 6 - 1988-Gary Young/Don Bass win CWA tag belts for three weeks, Memphis
- 7 - 1988-Clash of Champions III, Albany GA
- 8 - 1986-Brad Armstrong wins Continental Heavyweight crown in Birmingham
- 9 - 1980-Samoans win TV tournament for WWF tag team titles in Allentown
- 10 - 1980-Harley Race regains NWA title in Ostu, Japan
- 11 - 1986-Thunderfoot #1 & #2 win Central States tag titles in Kansas City
- 12 - 1957-Road Warrior Hawk born
- 13 - 1988-Dick Slater wins Florida Heavyweight championship, Tampa
- 14 - 1987-Jeff Jarrett wins Mid American championship, Memphis
- 15 - 1985-Denny Brown wins NWA junior heavyweight title, Atlanta
- 16 - 1986-Ron Bass beats Barry Windham for Florida Heavyweight title
- 17 - 1981-Ric Flair captures first NWA title in Kansas City
- 18 - 1937-Billy Robinson born
- 19 - 1986-Shiro Koshinaka wins Gran Prix junior championship, Fukuoka
- 20 - 1957-Arn Anderson born
- 21 - 1960-Rick Morton born
- 22 - 1986-Kevin Sullivan wins Continental heavyweight title, Birmingham
- 23 - 1986-Tatsumi Fujinami/Kengo Kimura win Gran Prix tag titles, Tokyo
- 24 - 1984-Greg Valentine wins Intercontinental title, London, Ontario
- 25 - 1987-Ron Garvin defeats Ric Flair for NWA title in Detroit
- 26 - 1959-David Sammartino born
- 27 - 1986-Fantastics beat Eddie Gilbert/Sting for UWF tag title, Tulsa
- 28 - 1985-Superclash I, Chicago, IL
- 1986-US and National titles unified and won by Nikita Koloff
- 29 - 1985-Save the Regal? Jim Garvin win AWA tag championship from Road Warriors in St. Paul
- 30 - 1972-Pedro Morales and Bruno Sammartino go to 72 minute draw, Shea Stadium

## OCTOBER

- 1 - 1937-Milo Steinborn/Whisker Savage face Tiger Daula/Fasul Mohammed (of India) in 1st known tag team match in Houston. Morris Siegel was the promoter
- 2 - 1985-Wahoo McDaniel wins Southern title in Tampa
- 3 - 1983-Rick Steamboat/Jay Youngblood win NWA tag belts in Greenville, SC
- 4 - 1985-Tom Magee makes pro debut in Japan
- 5 - 1985-Nightmares win Southeastern tag titles in Birmingham
- 6 - 1959-Barry Darsow born
- 7 - 1986-Sheepherders win US tag championships, Tampa
- 8 - 1986-Barry Windham wins Florida heavyweight title
- 9 - 1982-Nick Bockwinkel captures AWA belt in Chicago
- 10 - 1987-Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee win AWA tag championship
- 11 - 1988-JIM HERD HIT ON HEAD AND CONCEIVES IDEA FOR DING DONGS, NORMAN THE LUNATIC, LONG JOHN SILVER, ETC.
- 12 - 1985-Gino Hernandez and Chris Adams lose hair in Texas Stadium  
1986-Kevin Von Erich wins World Class version of World title, Dallas
- 13 - 1985-Ivan and Nikita Koloff win NWA tag titles, Charlotte
- 14 - 1987-Magnum TA has car wreck than ends career as wrestler
- 15 - 1988-Michael Hayes/Steve Cox begin two day reign as World Class tag champs, Dallas
- 16 - 1987-Sheepherders win UWF tag titles, Kansas City
- 17 - 1988-Samoan Swat Team win World Class tag belts, Ft. Worth
- 18 - 1959-John Nord born
- 19 - 1987-Hector Guererro/Doctor D win AWA tag championship, Memphis
- 20 - 1964-Mad Dog Vachon wins AWA championship  
1984-Dusty Rhodes/Manny Fernandez win NWA tag team championship, Greensboro, NC
- 21 - 1983-Jack & Jerry Brisco win NWA tag titles, Richmond, VA
- 22 - 1985-Moondog Moretti/Mike Miller win Pacific Northwest tag titles
- 23 - 1983-Last Battle of Atlanta, Tommy Rich beats Mad Dog Buzz Sawyer
- 24 - 1949-Antonino Rocca makes US debut in Houston
- 25 - 1986-Owen Hart wins British Commonwealth title, Edmonton  
1987-Bob Brown wins Central States title, St. Joseph, MO
- 26 - 1982-Strongbows win WWF tag titles in Allentown, PA
- 27 - 1987-Strike Force captures WWF tag titles in Syracuse, NY
- 28 - 1989-NWA Pay Per View, Halloween Havoc
- 29 - 1988-Road Warriors win NWA tag team championship in New Orleans
- 30 - 1987-Original Midnight Express take AWA tag championship in Whitewater, WI over Bill Dundee/Jerry Lawler
- 31 - 1979-Giant Baba wins first NWA title in Nagoya, Japan

## NOVEMBER

- 1 - 1961-Building complex owned by Buddy Rogers in Lindenwold, NJ is destroyed by fire; housed liquor store, restaurant, and gift shop
- 2 - 1936-Abdullah the Butcher born
- 3 - 1942-Pedro Morales born
- 4 - 1985-Rick Rude wins World Class heavyweight championship
- 5 - 1962-Killer Kowalski defeats Buddy Rogers in Montreal; does not win title as Rogers breaks ankle
- 6 - 1941-Ken Patera born
- 7 - 1985-WWF Wrestling Classic from Chicago won by Junk Yard Dog
- 8 - 1975-Nick Bockwinkel wins first AWA championship in St. Paul  
1980-Rick Martel/Tony Garea capture WWF tag belts in Philadelphia
- 9 - 1986-All three UWF titles change hands at TV taping in Tulsa
- 10 - 1950-Bob Orton born
- 11 - 1988-Eric Embry wins light heavyweight crown in Dallas
- 12 - 1949-Jerry Lawler born  
1966-Dick the Bruiser wins AWA heavyweight title

- 13 - 1987-Bad Company (Pillman/Hart) win International tag belts, Calgary
- 14 - 1957-Dick Hutton beats Lou Thesz for NWA title in Toronto (PHANTOM SPECIAL)
- 15 - 1952-Randy Savage born  
1983-Rocky Johnson/Tony Atlas win WWF tag belts in Allentown
- 16 - 1987-Old timer's battle royal in Meadowlands won by Lou Thesz
- 17 - 1986-Lance Von Erich/Dingo Warrior win World Class tag belts
- 18 - 1983-Mike Von Erich makes pro debut
- 19 - 1987-Akira Maeda famous shoot kick on Riki Choshu
- 20 - 1965-Chief Don Eagle commits suicide
- 21 - 1987-Jerry Lawler wins Southern championship in Memphis
- 22 - 1987-Midnight Rockers win AWA Southern tag titles in Memphis
- 23 - 1981-Pedro Morales wins Intercontinental title, MSG
- 24 - 1983-Starrcade 83, Flair beats Race in cage, Greensboro
- 25 - 1988-Survivor Series II, Richfield, OH
- 26 - 1986-Survivor Series I, Richfield, OH  
1986-Starrcade 86, Flair regains title from Garvin, Chicago
- 27 - 1949-Buddy Rose born  
1962-Davey Boy Smith born  
1987-Starrcade 87
- 28 - 1985-Rock & Roll Express win NWA tag titles in Greensboro
- 29 - 1971-David Morgan (England) defeats El Solitario in Mexico City  
for NWA World light heavyweight championship
- 30 - 1986-Fabulous Ones win US tag belts

## DECEMBER

- 1 - 1973-Stan Stasiak wins WWF title in Philadelphia
- 2 - 1974-Giant Baba wins NWA title in Kagoshimi, Japan
- 3 - 1951-Riki Choshu born
- 4 - 1987-Japanese comedian Takeshi Kitano challenges Antonio Inoki
- 5 - 1958-Dynamite Kid born
- 6 - 1934-Nick Bockwinkel born  
1986-Manny Fernandez/Rick Rude win NWA tag titles, Atlanta
- 7 - 1988-Clash of Champions I', Season's Beatings
- 8 - 1980-Pedro Morales wins Intercontinental belt in MSG
- 9 - 1984-Sgt Slaughter fired from WWF after refusing to work TV taping
- 10 - 1975-Terry Funk takes NWA title in Miami
- 11 - 1987-Jumbo Tsuruta/Yoshiaki Yatsu win World Tag League championship
- 12 - 1960-Tor Yamoto dies of gunshot wounds inflicted by ex-wife: claims  
self defense. Wrestling in Nashville with Mr. Moto at time of death
- 13 - 1988-Superclash III, Chicago  
1989-Starrcade 89, Atlanta
- 14 - 1963-Crusher loses AWA title
- 15 - 1927-Gus Sonnenberg makes pro debut in Providence, RI
- 16 - 1917-Frank Gotch dies in Des Moines, IA
- 17 - 1906-Frank Gotch wins back world title from Fred Beal
- 18 - 1972-Mil Mascaras is first masked wrestler to work in New York state
- 19 - 1985-Dusty Rhodes wins National title
- 20 - 1986-Mid Atlantic heavyweight title dropped by NWA as championship
- 21 - 1973-Bruno Sammartino wins WWF title from Stan Stasiak, MSG
- 22 - Gorgeous George dies
- 23 - 1962-Keiji Mutoh (Great Muta) born
- 24 - 1933-Fabulous Moolah born
- 25 - 1982-Kerry vs Flair, start of Freebird-Von Erich feud
- 26 - 1983-Iron Sheik wins WWF title from Bob Backlund
- 27 - 1987-Midnight Rockers win AWA straps in Las Vegas
- 28 - 1984-David Shultz slaps ABC reporter John Stossel
- 29 - 1937-Lou Thesz wins first World title, St. Louis  
1985-Stan Hansen beats Rick Martel for AWA title
- 30 - 1988-Cactus Jack wins World Class light heavyweight title, Dallas

# A DECADE OF PAY PER VIEW

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During the last couple of years, Pay Per View telecasts became the mainline money maker for both the WWF and NWA. In 1989 alone, the two promotions combined for ten Pay Per View broadcasts.

Prior to 1989, the technology for PPV was not widely available. Only a small percentage of homes with cable TV had PPV capability. Still, 1988 saw seven wrestling pay per views, 1987 three, and three total in 1985-86.

When we look back at the nineties, wrestling Pay Per Views will have paved the way for more popular broadcasts, most likely the World Series and Superbowl. Wrestling, though, got in on the ground floor and blazed the trail, making mistakes along the way that others will learn from.

In our tribute to Pay Per View and the eighties, here is a look at all the PPV events, their results and some comments on each.

CARD: WRESTLEMANIA I  
DATE: 3/31/85  
CITY: NEW YORK  
ARENA: MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Tito Santana defeated the Executioner  
Rick Steamboat pinned Matt Borne  
King Kong Bundy pinned S. D. Jones  
Wendi Richter pinned Lelani Kai  
Andre the Giant defeated Big John Studd  
Nicolai Volkoff/Iron Sheik pinned Barry Windham/Mike Rotundo  
Greg Valentine pinned Junk Yard Dog  
Hulk Hogan/Mr. T pinned Roddy Piper/Paul Orndorff

**NOTES:** With PPV in its infancy, this card was carried on that venue in an extremely small market. Most of the country saw this card via closed circuit. Ticket prices were raised to nearly four times the usual amount for this card live at MSG. An overflow crowd packed adjoining Felt Forum in New York. In the matches themselves, The Executioner was Playboy Buddy Rose under a mask. King Kong Bundy reportedly pinned Jones in record time (the longest nine seconds in the history of man). Andre beat John Studd in a match where the winner had to body slam his opponent. Volkoff and Sheik won the WWF tag titles from Windham and Rotundo. Wendi Richter regained the woman's strap as well. Celebrities on hand included guest ring announcer Billy Martin, special time keeper Liberace, special referee Muhammed Ali.



**CARD:** THE WRESTLING CLASSIC  
**DATE:** 11/7/85  
**CITY:** CHICAGO (ROSEMONT) IL  
**ARENA:** ROSEMONT HORIZON

Adrian Adonis pinned Corporal Kirschner  
 Dynamite Kid pinned Nicolai Volkoff  
 Randy Savage pinned Ivan Putski  
 Rick Steamboat beat Davey Boy Smith by forfeit  
 Jynk Yard Dog pinned Iron Sheik  
 Moondog Spot beat Terry Funk by Count out  
 Tito Santana beat Don Muraco by count out  
 Paul Orndorff pinned Bob Orton  
 Dynamite Kid pinned Adrian Adonis  
 Randy savage pinned Rick Steamboat  
 Junk Yard Dog pinned Moondog Spot  
 Tito Santana and Paul Orndorff were both counted out  
 Hulk Hogan beat Roddy Piper by DQ  
 Randy Savage pinned Dynamite Kid  
 Junk Yard Dog beat Randy Savage by count out

**NOTES:** This was the first wrestling show offered exclusively on a Pay Per View basis. In the small universe of Pay Per View homes, it still did a reported 1.4% buyrate. It was set up as a sixteen man tournament with the only title at stake being Hogan's in his match with Piper. Steamboat won his first round match when Davey Boy Smith missed a leapfrog and Steamboat's head caught him in the groin. Steamboat refused to pin him and took the win via forfeit. Terry Funk's match with Moondog Spot lasted a whole ten seconds, just long enough for him to be counted out of the ring. He started chasing Spot outside the ring at the bell and Spot made it back in just at the count of ten. There was a ten minute time limit on all the tournament matches. Titan gave away a Rolls Royce at this show and the lucky winner was Michael Haney of Batavia, IL.

**CARD:** WRESTLEMANIA II  
**DATE:** 4/7/86  
**CITY:** NEW YORK, CHICAGO, & LOS ANGELES

**FROM NEW YORK:**

Don Muraco and Paul Orndorf were both counted out  
 Randy Savage pinned George Steele  
 Mr. T won a boxing match by DQ over Roddy Piper  
 Jake Robert pinned George Wells

**FROM CHICAGO:**

Fabulous Moohlah pinned Velvet McIntyre  
 Corporal Kirschner pinned Nicolai Volkoff  
 Andre the Giant won a 20 man open battle royal  
 British Bulldogs (Davey Boy Smith & Dynamite Kid) pinned Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake

**FROM LOS ANGELES:**

Rick Steamboat pinned Hercules Hernandez  
 Dory & Terry Funk pinned Junk Yard Dog & Tito Santana  
 Adrian Adonis pinned Uncle Elmer (Stan Frazier)  
 Hulk Hogan defeated King Kong Bundy in a cage match

**NOTES:** This event had a very limited PPV universe and was done closed circuit in a record number of places. The matches emanated from three different arenas and were sent back to the others via closed circuit. Mr. T vs Roddy Piper was recognized as one of the worst matches of all time. The battle royal from Chicago featured Chicago Bears football players Jim Covert, and William "the refrigerator" Perry and other NFLers Harvey Martin, Bill Fralic, and Russ Francis. The Bulldogs won the WWF tag team titles from Valentine and Beefcake on this card. Interesting behind the scenes stuff: This was the first time Adrian Adonis wore a dress to the ring and he did so with out first getting Vince's okay, Vince had told him to be gay and this was his way of going way overboard. Vince was livid at first, but then decided that he liked the idea. Also, booker for this card was George Scott who almost cost the WWF everything they had worked for. All of the finishes were done in such a way that no future angles were set up. When the WWF came back from a post Wrestlemania break, crowds were down all over and they had to work hard at TV tapings to get new stuff over to the fans.

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**CARD:** WRESTLEMANIA III  
**DATE:** 3/29/87  
**CITY:** DETROIT (PONTIAC) MI  
**ARENA:** SILVERDOME

Can-Am Express (Martel & Zenk) pinned Don Muraco & Bob Orton (-)  
Billy Jack Haynes DCOR Hercules (C+)  
Hillbilly Jim & 2 midgets beat King Kong Bundy & 2 midgets by DQ (D-)  
Harley Race pinned Junk Yard Dog (B-)  
Greg Valentine/Brutus Beefcake pinned Rougeau Brothers (C)  
Roddy Piper beat Adrian Adonis (B-)  
Hart Foundation/Danny Davis pinned Bulldogs/Tito Santana (C-)  
Rick Steamboat pinned Randy Savage (B+)  
Butch Reed pinned Koko B. Ware (C-)  
Honky Tonk Man pinned Jake Roberts (B-)  
Iron Sheik/Nicolai Volkoff beat Killer Bees by DQ (C-)  
Hulk Hogan pinned Andre the Giant (C-)

**NOTES:** Record crowd with 93,176 attending. This show was offered on a limited Pay Per View basis as not much of the country had PPV capabilities yet. It was recognized as one of the best WWF cards of the decade. Roddy Piper's match was a hair vs hair retirement match as Piper said he would retire after this card no matter what the outcome. Brutus Beefcake turned babyface on this card and helped Piper to shave Adonis bald (well, not bald because the battery operated clippers didn't work well) and thus earned himself the gimmick of "the barber." Steamboat defeated Randy Savage for the Intercontinental title in what was probably the best WWF match of the decade. The main event featuring Hogan and Andre had a famous bearhug that lasted 2:43. This was Andre's first job ever in the United States.

**CARD:** STARRCADE 87  
**DATE:** 11/26/87  
**CITY:** CHICAGO, IL  
**ARENA:** U.I.C. Pavilion

Sting/Jim Garvin/Michael Hayes drew Eddie Gilbert/Rick Steiner/Larry Zbyszko (C)  
Steve Willimas pinned Barry Windham (B-)  
Rock & Roll Express (Ricky Morton & Robert Gibson) beat Midnight Express (Stan Lane & Bobby Eaton) (C+)  
Nikita Koloff pinned Terry Taylor (D-)  
Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson beat the Road Warriors by DQ (B-)  
Dusty Rhodes pinned Lex Luger (C-)  
Ric Flair pinned Ron Garvin (B)

**NOTES:** Several storylines were developed and each match (with the exception of the first) had something of value riding on it. In the Williams/Windham match, both were babyfaces, but Williams gave signs of turning heel. He tried to leapfrog Barry during a spot, but caught Windham's head in the groin. Windham refused to let the referee make the count. Later, when Windham went over the top rope by accident, Williams didn't have any second thoughts about pinning him easily on his return to the ring. The R & R/Midnight match was on a scaffold. Nikita won the "unified" TV title, which combined the NWA and UWF TV belts. The Road Warriors pinned Tully and Arn after a ref bump and were awarded the tag team belts by a second referee. Tommy Young, the original ref then announced that he had already DQ'd the Warriors for the screw job finish. Dusty won the US title from Luger in a cage when he DDT'd Lex on a chair that JJ Dillon had tossed in the ring. A third title on the card changed hands as Ric Flair regained the NWA World title in a cage. This was the first head to head meeting between the NWA and the WWF's Survivor Series. This card was moved to an early starting time (5:00 pm) to avoid a direct confrontation. The move cost the NWA quite a few viewers who were still in the middle of turkey day dinner.

**CARD:** SURVIVOR SERIES I  
**DATE:** 11/26/87  
**CITY:** CLEVELAND, OH  
**ARENA:** RICHFIELD COLISEUM

RANDY SAVAGE, Jim Duggan, Brutus Beefcake, Jake Roberts & Rick Steamboat  
vs  
HONKY TONK MAN, Harley Race, Ron Bass, Danny Davis, & Hercules

Race DQ'd Duggan, Beefcake pinned Bass, Honky Tonk pinned Beefcake, Jake pinned Davis, Savage pinned Hercules, Honky Tonk Man counted out of ring when he left for the dressing room.

**WINNERS:** Savage, Steamboat and Roberts

FABULOUS MOOLAH, Velvet McIntyre, Rockin' Robin & Jumping Bomb Angels  
vs  
SHERRI MARTEL, Donna Christenello, Dawn Marie, Judy Martin, & LeLani Kai

Velvet pinned Christenello, Robin pinned Dawn Marie, Sherri pinned Robin, Martin pinned Moolah, Velvet pinned Sherri, LeLani pinned Velvet, Isuki pinned LeLani, Tatano pinned Martin.

**WINNERS:** Jumping Bomb Angels

STRIKE FORCE, Bulldogs, Rougeaus, Young Stallions, & Killer Bees  
vs  
HART FOUNDATION, Demolition, Bolsheviks, Islanders, Valentine/Bravo

Tito Santana pinned Boris Zhukov (eliminating Bolsheviks), Axe pinned Jacques Rougeau (eliminating Rougeau brothers), Smash DQ'd (eliminating Demolition), Neidhart pinned Santana (eliminating Strike Force), Haku pinned Dynamite Kid (eliminating Bulldogs), Paul Roma pinned Greg Valentine (eliminating Valentine/Bravo), Jim Brunzell pinned Bret Hart (eliminating Hart Foundation), and Brian Blair pinned Tama (eliminating Islanders)

**WINNERS:** Killer Bees and Young Stallions

HULK HOGAN, Ken Patera, Paul Orndorf, Don Muraco and Bam Bam Bigelow  
vs  
ANDRE, Butch Reed, One Man Gang, Rick Rude, and King Kong Bundy

Hogan pinned Reed, One Man Gang pinned Patera, Rude pinned Orndorff, Muraco pinned Rude, Gang pinned Muraco, Hogan COR, Bigelow pinned Bundy, Bigelow pinned Gang, Andre pinned Bigelow.

**WINNER:** Andre the Giant.

**NOTES:** This show marked the debut of the Jumping Bomb Angels and put them over with the win. Billy Graham had been scheduled for Hogan's team but his health made him pull out. He was replaced by Don Muraco. The tag team match here was one of the better matches of the year as voted by our readers.

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**CARD:** BUNKHOUSE STAMPEDE FINALS  
**DATE:** 1/17/88  
**CITY:** UNIONDALE, NY  
**ARENA:** NASSAU COLISEUM

Bobby Eaton drew Nikita Koloff (C-)  
 Larry Zbyszko pinned Barry Windham (B-)  
 Road Warrior Hawk beat Ric Flair by DQ (B)  
 Dusty Rhodes won a cage battle royal to win bunkhouse stampede

**NOTES:** Other participants in the battle royal (in order of elimination) were Ivan Koloff, Warlord, Road Warrior Animal, Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, Lex Luger, and Barbarian. The show did not go over well either on PPV or live. The tickets had a starting time of 8:00 pm printed on them. It was advertised on TV to start at 7:00 pm and the show actually started at 6:30 with a dark match (Sting & Jim Garvin winning by DQ over the Shepherders). Lots of no shows including the Rock & Roll Express who were to have worked the opening match but had gotten fired earlier in the week, Mighty Wilbur who was out with a broken leg, Steve Williams who was still on a Japan tour (we later found out that he had been arrested for trying to get drugs, steroids, etc. into Japan), and Big Bubba who had left for Titan. The last three had been scheduled for the Bunkhouse stampede finals. Attendance live was 7000-8000, but most arrived late due to the mixed up starting time. While the announcers were signing off, you could plainly hear the crowd chanting, "REFUND!"

**CARD:** WRESTLEMANIA IV  
**DATE:** 3/27/88  
**CITY:** ATLANTIC CITY, NJ  
**ARENA:** TRUMP PLAZA

Bad News Brown won a battle royal (C-)  
 Ted DiBiase pinned Hacksaw Jim Duggan (C)  
 Don Muraco beat Dino Bravo by DQ (D+)  
 Greg Valentine pinned Ricky Steamboat (C+)  
 Randy Savage pinned Butch Reed (C-)  
 One Man Gang beat Bam Bam Bigelow by count out (C)  
 Rick Rude drew with Jake Roberts (C+)  
 Ultimate Warrior pinned Hercules (F)  
 Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant were both disqualified (D+)  
 Ted DiBiase pinned Don Muraco (C+)  
 Randy Savage pinned Greg Valentine (B-)  
 Brutus Beefcake beat Honky Tonk Man by DQ (D+)  
 Islanders/Bobby Heenan pinned Bulldogs/Koko B Ware (B-)  
 Demolition pinned Strike Force (Rick Martel/Tito Santana) (C+)  
 Randy Savage beat One Man Gang by DQ (C-)  
 Randy Savage pinned Ted DiBiase (B-)

**NOTES:** This card went head to head with a free Clash of Champions (I) and that may have hurt the buyrate and cost McMahon as much as a million dollars. Two championships were decided with Demolition taking the tag team straps from Strike Force and of course Savage winning the heavyweight title in the tournament. Bret Hart turned babyface in the battle royal when he and Bad News were the only two left in the ring. They shook hands and then Brown delivered an enzuigeri to knock Bret out of the ring and kept the "prize money" to himself.

**CARD:** GREAT AMERICAN BASH  
**DATE:** 7/11/88  
**CITY:** BALTIMORE, MD

Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson drew Sting/Nikita Koloff (B)  
Midnight Express (Eaton & Lane) pinned Fantastics (Rogers & Fulton) (B)  
The team of the Road Warriors, Ron Garvin, Jimmy Garvin and Steve Williams defeated the team of Kevin Sullivan, Mike Rotundo, Ivan Koloff, Al Perez and Russian Assassin (Dave Sheldon) in the triple tower of doom match. (B-)  
Barry Windham pinned Dusty Rhodes (C-)  
Ric Flair defeated Lex Luger by TKO (B-)

**NOTES:** They used the Triple Tower of Doom as a gimmick to try to sell the PPV. This was the last PPV that the Crockett family ran with the Turner buyout coming a few months later. Ron Garvin turned heel on the card after the tower match. During the Windham Rhodes match, there was a ref bump and Ron came to ringside, supposedly to help Dusty. Dusty told him to look after the ref and Ron hit Dus with the hands of stone and Windham pinned him after the ref recovered. Flair won his match when the State Athletic commission stopped the match due to blood. It should be noted that Luger was not bleeding much, about the same as a kid's scratched knee. He had Flair in the torture rack when the match was halted.

**CARD:** SUMMERSLAM I  
**DATE:** 8/29/88  
**CITY:** NEW YORK, NY  
**ARENA:** MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Jacques & Raymond Rougeau drew British Bulldogs (Davey Boy Dmith & Dynamite Kid) (C+)  
Bad News Brown pinned Ken Patera (D-)  
Rick Rude beat Junk Yard Dog by DQ (D+)  
Powers of Pain pinned Bolshiviaks (C-)  
Brother Love had as a mystery guest Hacksaw Jim Duggan  
Ultimate Warrior pinned Honky Tonk Man (NG)  
Dino Bravo pinned Don Muraco (D-)  
Demolition pinned Hart Foundation (C)  
Bossman pinned Koko B Ware (B-)  
Jake Roberts pinned Hercules (C-)  
Hulk Hogan/Randy Savage pinned Andre/Ted DiBiase (C+)

**NOTES:** This was one of the worst received PPV events of the decade. The broadcast was generously salted with advertisements for upcoming PPV events such as Survivor Series and more often than not, a boxing match between Sugar Ray Leonard and Donnie LeLonde. Brother Love's guest was to have been a mystery guest, "someone who has never been his guest before" and speculation ran wild as to which NWA star was jumping. Most of those in the know now agree that it was to have been Ric Flair who pulled out at the last minute. Ultimate Warrior halted HTM's reign as the longest IC champion on this show, pinning him in less than 30 seconds. Jesse Ventura was the special guest referee (in the ring) for the main event.

**CARD:** SURVIVOR SERIES II  
**DATE:** 11/25/88  
**CITY:** CLEVELAND (RICHFIELD), OH  
**ARENA:** RICHFIELD COLISEUM

ULTIMATE WARRIOR, Brutus Beefcake, Jim Brunzell, Sam Houston, & Blue Blazer

vs

HONKY TONK MAN, Ron Bass, Greg Valentine, Bad News Brown, and Danny Davis

Beefcake eliminated Davis with a sleeper; Brown pinned Brunzell; Brown eliminated by COR; Bass pinned Houston; Valentine made Blazer submit; Beefcake DCOR Honky Tonk Man; Warrior pinned Bass; Warrior pinned Valentine.

**WINNER:** ULTIMATE WARRIOR

POWERS OF PAIN, Hart Foundation, Young Stallions, Rockers & Bulldogs

vs

DEMOLITION, Brainbusters, Rougeaus, Bolsheviks, & Conquistadors  
 Bret Hart pinned Raymond Rougeau; Boris Zhukov pinned Jim Powers; Marty Janetty pinned Boris Zhukov; Tully Blanchard pinned Bret Hart; Rockers and Brainbusters both DQ'd; Smash pinned Dynamite Kid; Axe counted out of ring; Barbarian pinned Conquistador #1.

**WINNERS:** POWERS OF PAIN

ANDRE, DINO BRAVO, Rick Rude, Curt Hennig, Harley Race

vs

JIM DUGGAN, JAKE ROBERTS, Tito Santana, Ken Patera & Scott Casey  
 Rude pinned Patera; Bravo pinned Casey; Santana pinned Race; Andre pinned Santana; Duggan was disqualified; Andre was disqualified; Hennig pinned Duggan.

**WINNERS:** CURT HENNIG AND DINO BRAVO

HULK HOGAN, RANDY SAVAGE, Hillbilly Jim, Hercules, Koko B Ware

vs

BOSSMAN, AKEEM, Ted DiBiase, Red Rooster, Haku  
 Savage pinned Terry Taylor; Akeem pinned Hillbilly Jim; BOSSman pinned Koko; DiBiase pinned Hercules; Savage pinned DiBiase; Bossman counted out; Akeem was disqualified; Hogan pinned Haku.

**WINNERS:** HULK HOGAN AND RANDY SAVAGE

**NOTES:** This show marked two major angles. They did a double turn with Demolition going baby and the Powers of Pain going heel. Mr. Fuji pulled the ropes as Axe came off of them and Axe went over the top rope and got counted out. Fuji then helped Powers of Pain win by tripping one of the Conquistadors as he came off the ropes. The live crowd was obviously confused by the double turn and cheered the Powers of Pain when they won and booed Demolition when they did a post match run in. The other angle helped to set up the Hogan Savage feud. Hogan had been handcuffed to the ring ropes outside while the heels worked over Savage in the ring. Elizabeth finally got the keys away from SLick and unlocked HOGan who went in the ring and pinned the remaining Haku. After the match, Hogan gave Liz a hug and Savage gave Hogan a dirty look.

**CARD:** SUPERCLASH III  
**DATE:** 12/13/88  
**CITY:** CHICAGO, IL  
**ARENA:** UIC PAVILION

Mando, Chavo, & Hector Guererro pinned Rock and Roll RPM's/Cactus Jack Foley  
Eric Embry pinned Jeff Jarrett  
Jimmy Valiant pinned Wayne Bloom  
Iceman Parsons pinned Brickhouse Brown  
Derrick Dukes/Ricky Rice/Wendi Richter pinned Pat Tanaka/Paul Diamond/Medussa Micelli  
Greg Gagne defeated Ron Garvin by COR  
The Terrorist won a POWW battle royal  
Sgt Slaughter beat Colonel DeBeers by DQ  
Samoan Swat Team pinned Michael Hayes/Steve Cox  
Wahoo McDaniel beat Manny Fernandez  
Jerry Lawler defeated Kerry Von Erich on a TKO  
Rock and Roll Express DDQ Robert Fuller/Jimmy Golden

**NOTES:** This was the first attempt by a group other than the WWF or NWA to promote a Pay Per View event. It combined talent from the AWA, Memphis CWA and Dallas World Class. The show was a failure from most accounts and did less than a  $\frac{1}{2}$  % buyrate. Two titles changed hands on the card with Eric Embry defeating Jeff Jarrett for the light heavyweight belt and Greg Gagne regaining the TV title from Ron Garvin. Garvin was already under contract with the WWF and refused to do a job to lose the title so they changed it on the count out. Jerry Lawler defeated Kerry Von Erich for the "unified World Title" when the referee stopped the match due to blood. Kerry was lucky to work the card anyway. The sheets revealed prior to this card that he had had his right foot amputated due to the motorcycle accident he was in. Titan got wind of this and notified the Illinois State Athletic Commission who has a rule on the books that prohibits wrestlers or boxers with just one extremity from competing. Larry Zbyszko was on hand to work against Lawler had this been enforced. The Athletic Commission ruled, however that wrestling was an exhibition rather than an athletic contest.



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CARD: STARRCADE 88  
 DATE: 12/26/88  
 CITY: NORFOLK, VA  
 ARENA: THE SCOPE

Kevin Sullivan/Steve Williams pinned the Fantastics (Bobby Fulton & Tommy Rogers) (C-)  
 Midnight Express pinned Original Midnight Express (C)  
 Russian Assassins pinned Ivan Koloff/Junk Yard Dog (D-)  
 Rick Steiner pinned Mike Rotundo (B-)  
 Barry Windham won by count out over Bam Bam Bigelow (B-)  
 Dusty Rhodes/Sting beat the Road Warriors by DQ (B+)  
 Ric Flair pinned Lex Luger (A-)

**NOTES:** Two championships changed hands on this card. The Varsity Club beat the Fantastics for the US tag team championships, Rick Steiner took the TV championship by pinning Mike Rotundo. This card was forced from its regular Thanksgiving night slot by the Survivor Series. Flair retained his championship by pinning LUGER with his feet on the ropes. An interesting sidelight: Luger had insisted on this finish to maintain his credibility. The match was so well worked that after the match, he went up to Flair and apologized for insisting on the feet on the ropes. This was clearly Lex Luger's best effort to date in his career.

CARD: ROYAL RUMBLE  
 DATE: 1/15/89  
 CITY: HOUSTON, TX

Hart Foundation (Bret Hart/Jim Neidhart) beat Jacques and Raymond Rougeau and Dino Bravo two falls to one in two out of three fall match (B-)  
 King Haku pinned Harley Race (B-)  
 Rockin' Robin (Smith) pinned Judy Martin (C-)  
 John Studd won the Royal Rumble

**NOTES:** The Royal Rumble here was used to set up the main event at Wrestlemania. Hogan accidentally eliminated Randy Savage and Savage returned to the ring to go nose to nose arguing with him until Elizabeth came in and separated them. The final break up would come on the 2/3/89 NBC Prime Time Special live. Also set up was the feud between Rick Rude and Ultimate Warrior when they had a pose down contest. During the last set of poses, Rude attacked Warrior with a bullworker and left him for dead. Harley Race bid adieu to the WWF on this card losing to King Haku in a battle for the crown. Interesting that Heenan was at ringside cheering on both men, depending on who was doing better.

**CARD:** CHI-TOWN RUMBLE  
**DATE:** 2/20/89  
**CITY:** CHICAGO  
**ARENA:** U.I.C. PAVILION

Michael Hayes pinned Russian Assassin (Jack Victory) (C)  
 Sting pinned Hacksaw Butch Reed (D-)  
 Midnight Express/Jim Cornette pinned Original Midnight Express/Paul E Dangerously (B)  
 Mike Rotundo pinned Rick Steiner (D+)  
 Lex Luger pinned Barry Windham (A-)  
 Road Warriors pinned Steve Williams/Kevin Sullivan (B)  
 Rick Steamboat pinned Ric Flair (A+)

**NOTES:** Two belts changed hands on this PPV. The first was Luger taking the US title from Barry Windham in a very good match. The finish was the old Richter-Moolah finish with LUGer raising his shoulder before the count of three. The other change, of course was the NWA world title with Rick Steamboat winning the title in an outstanding well worked match. Also, in the six man tag match, there were special stipulations that whoever was pinned had to leave the NWA. Dennis Condrey no showed and was replaced by Jack Victory in that match, but Randy Rose was the one who was pinned, leading to a short run (very short) as a babyface.

**CARD:** WRESTLEMANIA V  
**DATE:** 4/2/89  
**CITY:** ATLANTIC CITY, NJ  
**ARENA:** TRUMP PLAZA

Hercules pinned King Haku (C-)  
 Twin Towers (Bossman & Akeem) pinned Rockers (Marty Janetty & Sean Michaels) (B-)  
 Ted DiBiase beat Brutus Beefcake by Count out (D+)  
 Bushwhackers (Butch Miller & Luke Williams) pinned Jacques & Ramond Rougeau (F-)  
 Curt Hennig pinned Blue Blazer (Owen Hart) (C+)  
 Demolition pinned Powers of Pain (Warlord, Barbarian & Mr. Fuji) (C-)  
 Dino Bravo pinned Ronnie Garvin (ZZ)  
 Brainbusters (Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson) pinned Strike Force (Tito Santana & Rick Martel) (B)  
 Jake Roberts won by DQ over Andre the Giant (ZZZZ)  
 Hart Foundation pinned Honky Tonk Man & Greg Valentine (C+)  
 Rick Rude pinned Ultimate Warrior (B)  
 Bad News Brown and Jim Duggan went to a double DQ (ZZ)  
 Terry Taylor pinned Bobby Heenan (F)  
 Hulk Hogan pinned Randy Savage (C+)

**NOTES:** This PPV card set the record for highest buyrate ever. Two titles changed hands on the card. Rick Rude beat Ultimate Warrior for the Intercontinental Title when Booby Heenan tripped Warrior while he was attempting to suplex Rude back into the ring. Hennan held on to Warrior's foot to keep him from kicking out. Also, Hulk Hogan regained the WWF World Title by beating Randy Savage in your basic squash match. Another angle that came out of this show was the turn of Rick Martel to heel. He was cuaght by an accidental Santana flying forearm and walked away from ringside leaving Tito to be squashed by Tully and Arn.

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**CARD: WRESTLEWAR 89**

**DATE: 5/7/89**

**CITY: NASHVILLE, TN**

Great Muta pinned Doug Gilbert (B)  
 Butch Reed pinned Ranger Ross (D+)  
 Dick Murdoch beat Bob Orton (C-)  
 Dynamic Dudes pinned Samoan Swat Team (B-)  
 Michael Hayes pinned Lex Luger (C+)  
 Sting over Iron Sheik by submission (D+)  
 Ric Flair pinned Ricky Steamboat (A+)

**NOTES:** This was probably the best effort the NWA has had thus far in PPV broadcasts. Two titles changed hands with Hayes winning the US title from Lex Luger when Terry Gordy pushed Hayes on top of Luger and Ric Flair regained the NWA belt from Steamboat. The Oak Ridge Boys provided a twenty minute set of their hits for an intermission as well as did the best national anthem in PPV history. Doug Gilbert replaced Junk Yard Dog who was fired the day before.

**CARD: GREAT AMERICAN BASH 89**

**DATE: 7/23/89**

**CITY: BALTIMORE, MD**

**ARENA: CIVIC CENTER**

Two Ring Battle Royal - Skyscrapers won (D+)  
 Brian Pillman pinned Bill Irwin (C+)  
 Skyscrapers (Sid Vicious/Danny Spivey) pinned Dynamic Dudes (Shane Douglas/Johnny Ace) (C-)  
 Jim Cornette beat Paul E Dangerously in a tuxedo match (C)  
 Steiners pinned Kevin Sullivan/Mike Rotundo (B)  
 Sting and Muta pinned each other (B+)  
 Lex Luger beat Rick Steamboat by DQ (A)  
 WAR GAMES (Garvin, Hayes, Gordy, Samu & Fatu vs Road Warriors, Midnight Express, Steve Williams) - won by the babyfaces (B+)  
 Ric Flair pinned Terry Funk (A)

**NOTES:** The buyrate on this card was somewhere between a 1% and a 1.4% depending on who you believe. Sting and Muta were wrestling for the TV title when they did the Moolah-Richter finish. Sting was announced to the crowd as the winner, but Muta left with the belt. It was later announced on the broadcast that the title was being held up but the live audience had no idea what was happening. A brawl after the final match between Flair/Sting and Funk/Muta was on eof the best in recent memory. Flair bled on this card but the match was not stopped like last year. The athletic commission "looked the other way" this time.

**CARD: SUMMERSLAM 89**  
**DATE: 8/28/89**  
**CITY: EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ**  
**ARENA: BRENDAN BYRNE MEADOWLANDS**

Brainbusters (Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson) pinned Hart Foundation (Jim Neidhart/Bret Hart) (C+)  
 Dusty Rhodes pinned Honky Tonk Man (F-)  
 Curt Hennig pinned Terry Taylor (B-)  
 Rougeau Brothers/Rick Martel pinned Rockers (Marty Janetty/Sean Michaels) & Tito Santana (B)  
 Ultimate Warrior pinned Rick Rude (C)  
 Demolition/Jim Duggan pinned Akeem/Bossman/Andre (C-)  
 Hercules beat Valentine by DQ on a reversed decision (D-)  
 Ted DiBiase beat Superfly Jimmy Snuka by COR (F)  
 Hulk Hogan/Brutus Beefcake pinned Randy Savage/Zeus (C-)

**NOTES:** Titan claimed a near record buyrate on this show with a 6% though we can't be sure of that figure's legitimacy. One title changed hands with Ultimate Warrior winning back the Intercontinental belt from Rick Rude with some help from Roddy Piper who came to ringside and distracted Rude. The show was better than the first Summerslam as it didn't contain a multitude of commercials for the upcoming PPV specials. Zeus shocked everyone by doing a clean job for Hogan (or at least being pinned after being hit with the loaded purse). Hogan attracted the ire of some fans by atomic dropping Sherri after the match.

**CARD: HALLOWEEN HAVOC**  
**DATE: 10/28/89**  
**CITY: PHILADELPHIA, PA**  
**ARENA: CIVIC CENTER**

Tom Zenk pinned Mike Rotundo  
 Samoans pinned Midnight Express/Steve Williams  
 Tommy Rich pinned Cuban Assassin (Dave Sierra)  
 Freebirds (Michael Hayes/Jimmy Garvin) pinned Dynamic Dudes (Shane Douglas/ Johnny Ace)  
 Doom (Ron Simmons/Butch Reed) pinned Steiner Brothers  
 Lex Luger pinned Brian Pillman  
 Road Warriors beat Skyscrapers by DQ  
 Ric Flair/Sting beat Terry Funk/Great Muta in a thunderdome cage

**NOTES:** No title changes here. This was a gimmick card from the beginning, however, as they lowered the cage, something shorted out and some of the decorations caught on fire and they had to unplug the whole thing. There were to have been "hot spots" on the cage that made the wrestlers' hair stand on end, send sparks flying etc. Elvira did commercial slots for this show. Bruno Sammartino was the special referee for the main event.

**CARD:** SURVIVOR SERIES III  
**DATE:** 11/23/89  
**CITY:** CHICAGO (ROSEMONT), IL  
**ARENA:** ROSEMONT HORIZON

#### **THE ENFORCERS**

(Bossman, Honky Tonk Man, Rick Martel, & Bad News Brown)

VS

#### **THE DREAM TEAM**

(Dusty Rhodes, Brutus Beefcake, Tito Santana, & Terry Taylor)  
 Martel pinned Santana; Bad News Brown walked out and was counted out; Beefcake pinned Honky Tonk Man; Beefcake pinned Martel; Bossman pinned Terry Taylor; Dusty pinned Bossman.

**WINNERS:** Dusty Rhodes & Brutus Beefcake

#### **KING'S COURT**

(Randy Savage, Earthquake Tenta, Dino Bravo, & Greg Valentine)

VS

#### **THE 4 X 4'S**

(Jim Duggan, Ron Garvin, Hercules, & Bret Hart)  
 Earthquake pinned Hercules; Duggan pinned Valentine; Dino Barvo pinned Ron Garvin; Savage pinned Bret Hart; Duggan counted out.

**WINNERS:** Randy Savage, Earthquake John Tenta, & Dino Bravo

#### **THE MILLION DOLLAR TEAM**

(TED DIBIASE, ZEUS, WARLORD, & BARBARIAN)

VS

#### **THE HULKAMANIACS**

(HULK HOGAN, JAKE ROBERTS, AXE AND SMASH)  
 Zeus disqualified; Warlord pinned Axe; Barbarian pinned Smash; Warlord and Barbarian both disqualified; DiBiase pinned Jake; Hogan pinned DiBiase.

**WINNER:** Hulk Hogan

#### **RUDE'S BROOD**

(Rick Rude, Curt Hennig, & Rougeau Brothers)

VS

#### **RODDY'S ROWDIES**

(Roddy Piper, Jimmy Snuka, & Bushwhackers)  
 Snuka pinned Jacques Rougeau; Piper pinned Raymond Rougeau; Hennig pinned Butch Miller; Rude pinned Luke Williams; Rude and Piper were both counted out; Hennig pinned Snuka.

**WINNER:** Curt Hennig

#### **THE HEENAN FAMILY**

(Bobby Heenan, Andre, Haku & Arn Anderson)

VS

#### **THE ULTIMATE WARRIORS**

(Ultimate Warrior, Jim Neidhart, Marty Janetty, Sean Michaels)  
 Andre counted out of ring; Haku pinned Neidhart; Heenan pinned Janetty; Sean Michaels pinned Haku; Arn Anderson pinned Sean Michaels; Warrior pinned Anderson; Warrior pinned Heenan.

**WINNER:** Ultimate Warrior.

**NOTES:** Several no shows including Akeem (ulcer), Tully Blanchard (fired) and Barry Windham (quit/fired). No angles or championship changes came out of this show and it was generally acknowledged as one of the better Titan efforts on PPV.

**CARD:** STARRCADE 89  
**DATE:** 12/13/89  
**CITY:** ATLANTA, GA  
**ARENA:** THE OMNI

Steiner Brothers beat Doom via COR  
Lex Luger pinned Sting  
Road Warriors pinned Doom  
Ric Flair pinned Great Muta  
Steiner Brother pinned Road Warriors  
Sting pinned Great Muta  
Samoans pinned Doom  
Ric Flair drew Lex Luger  
Samoans beat Steiner Brothers by DQ  
Luger beat Muta by DQ  
Road Warriors pinned Samoans  
Sting pinned Flair

**NOTES:** With the show taking place on a Wednesday night and coming on at 4:00 pm on the west coast, the live crowd and buy rates were both down. No titles were at stake and this marked the first time a promotion has tried babyfaces vs babyfaces and heels vs heels on a PPV show. Attendance live was less than 5000 and the buyrate was reportedly under 1%.

**CARD:** NO HOLDS BARRED  
**DATE:** BROADCAST 12/27/89 - TAPED 12/13/89  
**CITY:** NASHVILLE, TN

PPV premier of movie "No Holds Barred"  
Hulk Hogan/Brutus Beefcake pinned Randy Savage/Zeus

**NOTES:** The match was filmed in Nashville ahead of time to make sure there were no embarrassing screw-ups. It was in a cage and Beefcake climbed out along with Savage leaving Hogan and Zeus on the inside. Beefcake offered to come back in and help Hogan, but he refused the help and went on to squash Zeus, thus killing any further use of the character. The movie had an evil TV executive who wanted to hire away the champ, Rip Rorhem (Hogan) from a rival promoter. After attempt to kidnap and bribe the champ failed, the TV exec found a big guy, Zeus, in a bar's tough man contest and the two later battle to the death after Zeus hurts Rip's little brother. I don't believe there was a single positive review written about the movie, however it did gross \$12 million at the box office.

## WRESTLERS ON THE PAY PER VIEWS

Below is a list of every wrestler who worked on a Pay Per View special. The numbers indicate how many shows for that organization that wrestler worked along with the total. Included are wrestlers who appeared in battle royals, but not those who were used as seconds. Managers noted here are managers who actually wrestled, not just appeared with their charges.

| WRESTLER                     | WWF | NWA | AWA | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Adrian Adonis                | 3   | -   | -   | 3     |
| Akeem (One Man Gang)         | 6   | -   | -   | 6     |
| Andre the Giant              | 9   | -   | -   | 9     |
| Arn Anderson                 | 4   | 3   | -   | 7     |
| Ted Arcidi                   | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Tony Atlas                   | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Barbarian                    | 4   | 1   | -   | 5     |
| Ron Bass                     | 3   | -   | -   | 3     |
| Brutus Beefcake              | 8   | -   | -   | 8     |
| Bam Bam Bigelow              | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |
| B. Brian Blair               | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |
| Tully Blanchard              | 3   | 3   | -   | 6     |
| Wayne Bloom                  | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Matt Borne                   | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Bossman                      | 5   | -   | -   | 5     |
| Dino Bravo                   | 7   | -   | -   | 7     |
| Bad News Brown               | 5   | -   | -   | 5     |
| Brickhouse Brown             | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Jim Brunzell                 | 5   | -   | -   | 5     |
| King Kong Bundy              | 3   | -   | -   | 3     |
| Bushwhackers (Sheepherders)  | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Scott Casey                  | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Donna Christennello          | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Dennis Condrey               | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Conquistadors                | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Jim Cornette                 | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Steve Cox                    | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Cuban Assassin (Dave Sierra) | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Paul E. Dangerously          | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Danny Davis                  | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |
| Colonel DeBeers              | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Ted DiBiase                  | 6   | -   | -   | 6     |
| Demolition                   | 7   | -   | -   | 7     |
| Paul Diamond                 | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Jim Duggan                   | 7   | -   | -   | 7     |
| Derrick Dukes                | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Dynamic Dudes                | -   | 3   | -   | 3     |
| Dynamite Kid                 | 7   | -   | -   | 7     |
| Earthquake                   | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Bobby Eaton                  | -   | 7   | -   | 7     |
| Uncle Elmer                  | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Eric Embry                   | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Fantastics                   | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Manny Fernandez              | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Ric Flair                    | -   | 9   | -   | 9     |
| Robert Fuller                | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Dory Funk Jr.                | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Terry Funk                   | 2   | 2   | -   | 4     |
| Greg Gagne                   | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Jim Garvin                   | -   | 4   | -   | 4     |
| Ron Garvin                   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 5     |
| Doug Gilbert                 | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Eddie Gilbert                | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Jim Golden                   | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Terry Gordy                  | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Guererro Brothers            | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Haku (King Tonga)            | 7   | -   | -   | 7     |
| Scott Hall                   | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Bret Hart                    | 10  | -   | -   | 10    |
| Owen Hart                    | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Michael Hayes                | -   | 5   | 1   | 6     |
| Billy Jack Haynes            | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Bobby Heenan                 | 3   | -   | -   | 3     |
| Curt Hennig                  | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |
| Hercules                     | 9   | -   | -   | 9     |
| Hill                         |     |     |     |       |

| WRESTLER                        | WWF | NWA | AWA | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Hillbilly Jim                   | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |
| Hulk Hogan                      | 12  | -   | -   | 12    |
| Honky Tonk Man                  | 6   | -   | -   | 6     |
| Sam Houston                     | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Iron Sheik                      | 4   | 1   | -   | 5     |
| Bill Irwin                      | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Jeff Jarrett                    | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| S.D. Jones                      | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Junk Yard Dog                   | 6   | -   | -   | 6     |
| Jumping Bomb Angels             | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| LeLani Kai                      | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Corporal Kirschner              | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Ivan Koloff                     | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Nikita Koloff                   | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Stan Lane                       | -   | 6   | -   | 6     |
| Jerry Lawler                    | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Lex Luger                       | -   | 9   | -   | 9     |
| Cactus Jack Manson              | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Dawn Marie                      | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Rick Martel                     | 6   | -   | -   | 6     |
| Sherri Martel                   | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Judy Martin                     | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Wahoo McDaniel                  | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Velvet McIntyre                 | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Medussa Micelli                 | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Fabulous Moolah                 | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Pedro Morales                   | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Don Muraco                      | 6   | -   | -   | 6     |
| Dick Murdoch                    | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Great Muta                      | -   | 4   | -   | 4     |
| Jim Neidhart                    | 9   | -   | -   | 9     |
| Paul Orndorff                   | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |
| Bob Orton                       | 2   | 1   | -   | 3     |
| Ice Man King Parson             | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Ken Patera                      | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |
| Al Perez                        | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Brian Pillman                   | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Roddy Piper                     | 5   | -   | -   | 5     |
| Jim Powers                      | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Ivan Putski                     | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Harley Race                     | 5   | -   | -   | 5     |
| Butch Reed                      | 3   | 4   | -   | 7     |
| Dusty Rhodes                    | 2   | 4   | -   | 6     |
| Ricky Rice                      | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Tommy Rich                      | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Wendi Richter                   | 1   | -   | 1   | 2     |
| Road Warriors                   | -   | 8   | -   | 8     |
| Jake Roberts                    | 8   | -   | -   | 8     |
| Rockers                         | 3   | -   | -   | 3     |
| Rockin' Robin                   | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Paul Roma                       | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Buddy Rose                      | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Randy Rose                      | -   | 1   | -   | 1     |
| Ranger Ross                     | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Mike Rotundo                    | 1   | 5   | -   | 6     |
| Rougeau brothers                | 9   | -   | -   | 9     |
| RPM's                           | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Rock & Roll Express             | -   | 1   | 1   | 2     |
| Rick Rude                       | 7   | -   | -   | 7     |
| Russian Assassin (Dave Sheldon) | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Bruno Sammartino                | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Samoan Swat Team                | -   | 4   | 1   | 5     |
| Tito Santana                    | 10  | -   | -   | 10    |
| Randy Savage                    | 11  | -   | -   | 11    |
| Sika                            | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Ron Simmons                     | -   | 3   | -   | 3     |
| Sgt Slaughter                   | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Davey Boy Smith                 | 7   | -   | -   | 7     |
| Jimmy Snuka                     | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Danny Spivey                    | 1   | 2   | -   | 3     |
| Ricky Steamboat                 | 6   | 3   | -   | 9     |
| Rick Steiner                    | -   | 6   | -   | 6     |
| Scott Steiner                   | -   | 3   | -   | 3     |
| George Steele                   | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |

| WRESTLER                        | WWF | NWA | AWA | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Sting                           | -   | 8   | -   | 8     |
| John Studd                      | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Kevin Sullivan                  | -   | 4   | -   | 4     |
| Mr. T                           | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Pat Tanaka                      | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Terry Taylor                    | 4   | 1   | -   | 5     |
| Tonga Kid                       | 2   | -   | -   | 2     |
| Ultimate Warrior                | 5   | -   | -   | 5     |
| Greg Valentine                  | 8   | -   | -   | 8     |
| Jimmy Valiant                   | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Sid Vicious                     | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Jack Victory (Russian Assassin) | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Nicolai Volkoff                 | 8   | -   | -   | 8     |
| Kerry Von Erich                 | -   | -   | 1   | 1     |
| Koko B. Ware                    | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |
| Warlord                         | 4   | 1   | -   | 5     |
| George Wells                    | 1   | -   | -   | 1     |
| Steve Williams                  | -   | 6   | -   | 6     |
| Barry Windham                   | 2   | 4   | -   | 6     |
| Larry Zbyszko                   | -   | 2   | -   | 2     |
| Tom Zenk                        | 1   | 1   | -   | 2     |
| Zeus                            | 3   | -   | -   | 3     |
| Boris Zhukov                    | 4   | -   | -   | 4     |

I'M MOST SICK OF....Ultimate's interviews...Hogan's interviews...Dusty being pushed wherever he is...Rick Rude's pelvis...Vince's emphasis on steroids and total disregard for wrestling ability. THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...the NWA get their act together, to turn out shows and promote like the should be capable of...Steve Williams vs Ultimate Warrior in a shoot....DiBiase in the NWA, keeping and adding to his million dollar man persona as lead heel against Flair...NWA arranging to let some of its wrestlers go on Japan tours in order to get/keep top stars. They could use it to their advantage, i.e. "we are a world wide organization"...Blanchard and Anderson become NWA tag champions...Flair become media personality on the scale of Hogan...Andre retire...NWA get one good booker...WWF push wrestlers with some regard to workrate... I could go on and on...

-NAME WITHHELD #1-  
-Parts Unknown-

I'M MOST SICK OF...the WWF raiding talent, then not doing anything with it. There are a lot of talented wrestlers doing nothing because they are not used to the best of their potential. Plus the fact that so many non-talented wrestlers are being pushed so much (i.e. Ultimate Warrior).

-MIKE McCULLOUGH-  
-Riverdale, MD-

I'M MOST SICK OF...WWF entrance music, in particular, those of Brutus beefcake, Terry Taylor and Hulk Hogan...WWF PPV events ending with Hulk Hogan showing off his arms. We've seen them before, Hulk.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE...more babyface vs babyface and heel vs heel matches, without a turn.

-MARK BENNETT-  
-Jackson, MI-